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Japan

Bush, Miyazawa Agree To Increase Aid to Somalia

OW0412092892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President George Bush agreed Thursday to step up aid to war-torn Somalia, a senior Foreign Ministry official said. The agreement came in an early morning trans-Pacific telephone conversation between the two leaders, said Haruhiko Shibuya, director general of the ministry's United Nations Bureau.

According to Shibuya, Bush called Miyazawa at home and briefed him on the American offer of 30,000 ground troops for United Nations duty to secure emergency food supplies. The official quoted Miyazawa as telling Bush, "Japan, which has already extended sizable economic aid to Somalia, would like to extend its maximum help under consultations with the United States under a U.N. mandate."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said later that both sides understood that Japan cannot "transport" troops. He said no request was made for involvement by Japan in the proposed U.S.-led multilateral forces.

The call came three days after U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said military force is necessary to ensure the delivery of aid to Somalia and the U.S. State Department expressed readiness to dispatch up to 30,000 combat troops.

Miyazawa told reporters in the Diet building that he endorses the U.S. stance on Somalia and favors the U.N. Security Council's moves to send U.S.-led multilateral forces to Somalia.

News reports have focussed on warring Somali clans that have assaulted or seized Western relief convoys, stirring up international concern.

U.S. Democrats Urge Greater Role in Somalia

OW0412110392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—The head of a U.S. Democratic congressional delegation said Friday Japan and other countries should contribute more tangibly to international humanitarian efforts, including those now directed at Somalia.

"It seems to me we have to find a way to share this awesome responsibility with other countries," Colorado Representative Patricia Schroeder told reporters.

"If it just becomes a sole U.S. act each time, whether it is Yugoslavia or Somalia or wherever, Americans will suddenly get on a compassion overload," said Schroeder, who is a member of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

The delegation, which arrived Thursday for a three-day visit and meetings with Japanese parliamentarians and government officials, also includes Indiana Rep. Frank McCloskey and Texas Rep. Solomon Ortiz, who are also members of the committee.

Schroeder alluded to indications that Japan may only offer financial contributions for the anticipated large-scale, U.S.-led U.N. operation in Somalia.

"We're glad they send the checks, but sending troops is also terribly important," she said.

Japan came under strong criticism during the Persian Gulf war for not contributing personnel to the multinational effort in the region.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman lamented earlier Friday that Japan's financial contribution was not duly appreciated.

"It can't just be money," Schroeder said. "I don't think there's a country in the world that could continue to send their troops overseas, even if someone else is totally paying for it, if you are sustaining really high casualties."

"We need to find out how we share that," she said.

Schroeder, a leading advocate of defense burden sharing by Japan and other U.S. allies, said her delegation had some "really tough discussion with the Japanese" on the issue and received their full understanding.

In a meeting with the administrative vice defense minister, Akira Hiyoshi, Schroeder urged Japan to purchase U.S.-made Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), saying AWACS continues to be important in the current international situation, agency officials said.

Hiyoshi reportedly told Schroeder that Japan is currently negotiating with the U.S. on the purchase and that if both sides agree on the negotiation, he hopes that the next administration to be led by Bill Clinton will take over the agreement.

He also said Japan plans to increase its share of the costs of U.S. military forces stationed in Japan "despite severe financial circumstances," the officials said.

Schroeder said Japan's increased burden sharing is necessary for U.S. Forces to maintain a presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

She also urged Japan to promote the construction of a housing complex for U.S. military personnel in Japan in Ikego, Kanagawa Prefecture, they said.

Local residents have opposed the plan to build the complex in a forested area in Ikego for environmental reasons.

Tokyo To Provide Funds for UN Effort in Somalia

OW0412031892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan said Friday it will provide funds, but no military support to a U.S.-led

multinational military force preparing to intervene in Somalia to guard relief assistance for famine victims. Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the government would soon enter discussion on how to contribute to the military action being planned in accordance with a U.N. resolution, but he ruled out any role that would be linked "directly with fighting."

Kato indicated Japan would adhere to the principles that guided its mainly financial contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces that participated in the 1991 Persian Gulf war against Iraq. The war sparked a marathon debate on whether or not Japan should expand its contribution in times of crisis to include military personnel, but a proposal to provide support to the multinational troops in noncombat areas such as transportation and communications was shot down. After nearly two years of discussion, the Diet in June passed a law that allows Japan to contribute lightly armed military personnel to U.N. peacekeeping activities but restricts them to noncombat roles.

The U.N. Security Council resolution approved Thursday allows the U.S.-led forces to use military force if necessary to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid to alleviate the famine that has claimed some 300,000 lives in the past year in war-torn Somalia.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, addressing the possibility of amending Japan's peacekeeping law to broaden the possibilities for dispatching personnel, said it would depend on "public opinion."

"If public opinion changes, then lawmakers will also change," he told a press conference.

On Thursday Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in effect told U.S. President George Bush by phone that Japan could only provide financial assistance, Watanabe said.

Shortly after the U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill was passed, Miyazawa said Japan could not participate in activities supporting multinational forces because it would be difficult to distinguish such activities from the act of waging war. Japan's post-war Constitution bans the use of force to resolve international disputes.

Spokesman Views Release of UNTAC Personnel

OW0412091092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0900 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan said Friday the release of six UN peacekeepers detained for three days by Khmer Rouge guerrillas has reconfirmed the authority exerted by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the detention was "regrettable" but the incident demonstrated the Khmer Rouge is not in confrontation with UNTAC.

"As a result, UNTAC's authority was confirmed," Kato told a news conference shortly after the six peacekeepers were released.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas seized three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander on Wednesday in central Kampong Thom Province and accused them of spying.

The incident occurred after the UN Security Council imposed trade sanctions on regions of Cambodia under Khmer Rouge control.

The sanctions are aimed at pushing the guerrilla faction to disarm as required under the Paris peace agreement signed a year ago.

The Khmer Rouge has refused to lay down weapons, saying Vietnamese troops remain in Cambodia.

Tokyo Approves Use of SDF Planes in Cambodia

OW0412013092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0116 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Friday formally approved the use of Self-Defense Forces (SDF) aircraft by non-Japanese United Nations peacekeepers in Cambodia to transport personnel and supplies, government officials said. A Friday cabinet meeting also decided to expand Japan's participation in the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) by allowing SDF troops to distribute spare drinking water to U.N. troops of other nations, the officials said.

The changes in Japan's U.N. peacekeeping role in Cambodia are being made in response to formal U.N. requests. Japan will provide available space on weekly SDF flights of C-130 Hercules transport aircraft between Japan and Phnom Penh via Manila, to move U.N. troops to and from U Taphao in Thailand. SDF fligts will also airlift supplies from the Philippines to Cambodia, at Manila's request.

The Japanese peacekeepers stationed in Takeo, south of Phnom Penh, will also provide purified water to other U.N. troops from wells currently being dug. At present the troops depend on bottled water.

Tokyo To Urge ROK Not To Illegally Dump Nets

OW0412115492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Sendai, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan will urge South Korea to prevent its fishing boats from illegally dumping nets into the ocean as the refuse has caused accidents at sea, Maritime Safety Agency officials said Friday.

A total of 14 separate incidents, in which dumped fishing nets were intertwined around screws, have been reported off the Pacific coast of the Tohoku region between January 1991 and November 1991, the officials said at the 2nd Regional Maritime Safety Headquarters in Shiogama, Miyagi Prefecture.

The agency recovered 21 fishing nets, including seven drift nets, last year and officials suspect more than half were dumped by South Korean fishing boats.

The officials suspect the nets are being thrown into the sea because drift-net fishing will be prohibited starting next year.

Tokyo To Boost Aid To Assist Former Yugoslavs

OW0412101892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0923 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan will give an additional 4 million dollars in assistance to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for victims of armed conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Japan decided on the extra contribution "from a humanitarian point of view," taking into account increasing demands for shelter and daily necessities for the victims "with the approach of a harsh winter" due to the expansion of armed conflicts, the officials said.

Taizo Nakamura, Japanese ambassador to Yugoslavia, will announce Japan's decision at the UNHCR-sponsored high-level meeting of the humanitarian issues working group of the international conference on the former Yugoslavia, to be held Friday in Geneva, they said.

With the additional aid, Tokyo's total contribution for the victims of conflicts in the former Yugoslavia amounts to 24.51 million dollars, the officials said.

Japan has already contributed 18.44 million dollars to UNHCR.

Besides the UNHCR, Tokyo has already contributed 1.92 million dollars to the International Committee of the Red Cross, 50,000 dollars to the International Organization for Migration and 100,000 dollars to U.N. volunteers.

Foreign Ministry Urges End to Arab Boycott

OW0412083092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0712 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Japan urged Arab countries Friday to end their boycott on transactions with foreign firms maintaining business ties with Israel.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said at a news briefing that Japan considers such discriminatory boycott measures as against the principles of free trade and only interfere with international economic activities.

He noted the call is in line with the political declaration adopted at the 1991 London economic summit meeting of the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialized nations.

The G-7 declaration implicitly called for a suspension of the Arab boycott and the Israeli policy of building settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hanabusa said Israel has partially suspended construction of settlements. He said Japan feels that the Arabs should reciprocate.

The spokesman said this is the first formal Japanese call for an end to the boycott.

Takeshita Summoned To Testify Before Committee

OW0412091892 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Budget Committee of the House of Councillors decided today to summon former Prime Minister Takeshita, former chairman Sagawa of Sagawa Kyubin Group, and former president Watanabe of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin to testify before the committee.

[Begin Endo recording] In connection with the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin issue, this committee has decided to summon former Prime Minister Takeshita and Mr. Kiyoshi Sagawa to testify before this committee as witnesses at 10 o'clock on the morning of 7 December and at 10 o'clock on the morning of 8 December respectively. [end recording]

The Budget Committee of the House of Councillors also decided to question former President Watanabe of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin at 3 o'clock on the afternoon of 8 December in Tokyo Prison.

Rectifies Diet Sworn Testimony

OW0412081792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita submitted a report Friday to the Diet to rectify his sworn testimony concerning his meeting with Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., at a restaurant in central Tokyo.

In the report to the committee, Takeshita admitted having gone to Kitcho, a high-class Japanese restaurant in the Ginza Quarter, on October 29, 1987 for a regular meeting with his supporters and indicated the possibility of meeting there with Watanabe.

The report was submitted to Osamu Takatori, chairman of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives which summoned Takeshita as a sworn witness on November 26 to hear testimony about his alleged involvement in the money-and-mobster Tokyo Sagawa scandal, Diet officials said.

During his Diet testimony, Takeshita denied the meeting with Watanabe at Kitcho, saying he was fully booked on that day and had no time for that.

In a deposition read by prosecutors in early November at the Tokyo District Court, Watanabe said that Takeshita thanked him that day in the restaurant for his assistance in stopping a rightist group's harassment campaign against Takeshita.

Watanabe is now on trial for aggravated breach of trust for causing huge losses for the Tokyo Sagwa Kyubin Trucking Company through illegal loans and loan guarantees.

SDP's Tanabe To Demand Meeting With Miyazawa

OW0412115892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—The chairman of the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) said Friday he will demand a meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa as part of his efforts to drive former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita into retiring from politics, party officials said.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe instructed Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the SDP's Diet Affairs Committee, to press the demand against the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) immediately after Takeshita gives sworn testimony in the House of Councillors's Budget Committee next Monday, the officials said.

Tanabe plans to urge Miyazawa as the LDP president to seek Takeshita's departure from politics so the former premier can take responsibility for his assuming office in 1987 with the alleged assistance of mobsters.

If Miyazawa refused to accept Tanabe's demand for the meeting, the SDP along with two centrist opposition forces will submit to the House of Representatives a draft resolution seeking Takeshita's resignation, and to the upper house a draft no-confidence resolution against Takeshita, the officials said.

Takeshita will testify under oath for a second time before the Diet on the alleged role mobsters had in helping him become the LDP president, and thus prime minister, five years ago.

On November 26, when he last gave sworn testimony before the Diet, he brushed aside the allegations and rejected an opposition call for his resignation from the Diet.

Miyazawa Comments on Takeshita, Foreign Issues

OW0412114892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1138 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday ex-Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita does not need to resign from the Diet to take responsibility for the alleged role played by mobsters in his successful 1987 bid to the political pinnacle.

"I suspect Takeshita learned later that a certain event occurred without his knowledge. This does not follow that he must resign," Miyazawa told the House of Councillors Budget Committee.

Former political kingmaker Shin Kanemaru allegedly asked a gangland boss to squash a right-wing group's smear campaign against Takeshita, which threatened to prevent him from becoming ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president and prime minister five years ago.

Takeshita, testifying under oath before the Diet November 26 on his alleged involvement in a huge money-and-mobster scandal centered on Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., denied he knew gangsters played a role in his election as president of the LDP and spurned an opposition chorus for his resignation from the Diet.

He said he learned of the mobs' role in helping him become the LDP president about one year after he took office.

The opposition demanded that Takeshita resign from the Diet to take overall responsibility for the affair. Takeshita is set to appear before the upper house next Monday for another round of sworn testimony.

On the issue of reshuffling his cabinet, the premier hinted he hopes to reshuffle the cabinet after a supplementary budget bill for fiscal 1992 is enacted in the current extraordinary Diet session.

The extra budget, designed to finance a large part of a 10.7 trillion yen economic-boosting package unveiled by the government in late August, cleared the lower house Tuesday and is expected to gain final approval at the upper house possibly next Thursday.

To enact the supplementary budget plan, the current session of the Diet, which was to end Tuesday, will have to be extended a few days.

Miyazawa brushed aside any possibility that his cabinet would resign en mass to take political responsibility for the Sagawa scandal or that he would dissolve the lower house for a snap general election to gauge voters' trust of his cabinet.

On the issue of arms sales by the former Soviet republics, Miyazawa voiced concern saying, "I am worried that a tremendous amount (of weapons) is being exported to neighboring countries, just because arms (sales) are deemed the best way to acquire foreign currency," he said.

Touching on Friday's release of six U.N. peacekeepers held captive by the Khmer Rouge rebel group in Cambodia, the premier said he viewed it as an expression of the group's will to respect the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the war-torn country.

Miyazawa added that he hopes the Khmer Rouge will in principle cooperate (with the U.N. mission), even if it has complaints over the peace agreement signed in Paris in October 1991 to formally end 13 years of warfare.

Earlier Friday, Khmer Rouge guerrillas released the six peacekeepers—three Britons, two Filipinos, and a New Zealander—after being taken captive Wednesday.

Mori Sent List of Questions on Sagawa Case

OW0412053792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Prosecutors have sent a list of questions to Yoshiro Mori, a top executive of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), asking about an allegation that he was involved in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, informed sources said Friday.

The Tokyo District Prosecutors' office sent the questions in response to Mori's demand to be given a chance to clear up the question of his alleged involvement in the scandal and restore his honor, which he felt had been damaged by it, the sources said. Mori is chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council.

In a deposition to prosecutors, Ryumin Oshima, head of the rightist group Nihon Kominto, said that seven LDP Diet members, including Mori, sought to stop the group from harassing former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in October 1987. Takeshita was vying for LDP presidency and the premiership at that time.

Oshima said Mori met with Torao Inamoto, then leader of Nihon Kominto and offered him 2 billion yen if the group would stop the harassment, according to the prosecution.

Oshima's deposition was read by prosecutors in early November in the continuing trial at Tokyo District Court of Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the now-defunct trucking company. He is accused of aggravated breach of trust over loans and loan guarantees, and allegedly acted as a go-between for some LDP figures and a gang leader who was asked to help halt the harassment campaign against Takeshita.

Three of the seven LDP lawmakers named in the deposition admitted having contacts with the right-wing organization but four of them, including Mori, totally denied the allegation and have sought a chance to clear their names.

Mori Replies to Prosecution

OW0412143792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1415 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Yoshiro Mori, a top executive of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), submitted a written reply to the prosecution Friday denying his involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal.

Mori's lawyer told reporters that a prosecutor of the Tokyo District Prosecutors Office expressed understanding of the contents of the statement.

Mori, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, said, "My anger has not cooled off, but I am tentatively satisfied."

The prosecution sent the questions to Mori on Wednesday in response to his demand that he be given a chance to restore his honor, which he felt had been damaged by allegations that he was involved in the scandal.

In a deposition to prosecutors, Ryumin Oshima, head of the rightist group Nihon Kominto, said that seven LDP Diet members, including Mori, sought to stop the group from harassing former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita in October 1987. At the time, Takeshita was vying for the LDP presidency and the premiership.

Oshima said Mori met with Torao Inamoto, then leader of Nihon Kominto, and offered him 2 billion yen if the group would stop the harassment campaign, according to the prosecution.

Oshima's deposition was read by prosecutors in early November in the Tokyo District Court at the continuing trial of Hiroyasu Watanabe, former president of the now-defunct trucking company.

Watanabe is accused of aggravated breach of trust relating to massive loans and loan guarantees, and faces allegations that he acted as a go-between for some LDP figures and a gang leader who was asked to help halt the harassment campaign against Takeshita.

Three of the seven LDP lawmakers named in the deposition admitted having contacts with the right-wing organization, but four of them, including Mori, totally denied the allegation and have sought a chance to clear their names.

Mori, a former education minister, submitted a petition to the prosecution October 19 asking that he be allowed to undergo questioning.

Eisoku Yamamoto, a lawyer for Mori, said he called on Kenichi Sado, deputy chief of the office's special squad, to submit Mori's statement to the court or hold a news conference to apologize for the defamation.

Yamamoto said he told Sado, "If you understand the statement, I will take that to mean that Mori's reputation is restored."

Sado then said he understood the statement but rejected the call to submit the statement or to apologize, according to Yamamoto.

Lower House Panel To Summon Kanemaru Aide

OW0412062092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0553 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—A key lower house committee decided Friday to summon next week a top aide to disgraced Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) former Vice President Shin Kanemaru to testify about an illegal donation of 500 million yen to Kanemaru. The Budget Committee of the House of Representatives

decided to call Masahisa Haibara, Kanemaru's secretary, to give sworn testimony to the panel next Friday, Diet officials said.

In a testimony under oath at a hospital on November 27, Kanemaru told committee members that he left to Haibara the handling of the money received in January 1990 from Hiroyasu Watanabe, dismissed president of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. Kanemaru is recovering from eye surgery at Odawara Municipal Hospital in Kanagawa Prefecture, where he was admitted on November 16. [passage omitted]

Miyazawa: Growth Target 'Seems Out of Reach'

OW0412032692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0258 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Friday the government's target of a 3.5 percent real economic growth rate for the current fiscal year now seems out of reach.

Asked about the latest disheartening data on the country's gross national product (GNP), Miyazawa said, "We cannot help but say it is difficult to reach the 3.5 percent goal at this moment." The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) announced Thursday that the Japanese economy contracted 0.4 percent, or 1.6 percent at an annual rate, in the July-September quarter from the April-June period, for the first shrinkage in three years.

Miyazawa's view was shared by International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe. Watanabe told a press conference after a cabinet meeting Friday morning that, "although stock adjustment has progressed, private consumption and corporate capital spending remained less energetic." The minister indicated his wish for further monetary measures to jump-start the economy, saying the size of the series of cuts in the official discount rate was too little.

EPA chief Takeshi Noda described the economy as languishing at the bottom, as shown by the GNP figures, but said it will start showing the effects of the government's pump-priming package before long.

"The economy has seemingly been crawling along the bottom since the April-June quarter," he told a regular press conference.

Noda, however, was somewhat optimistic about the future of the economy, saying that the government's 10.7 trillion yen package, unveiled in late August, will gradually have its effects felt on the economy in the second half of fiscal 1992, ending next March 31.

Asked about the government's economic forecast for the next fiscal year, compiled every year by his agency for release at the end of the year, Noda said the projected growth figure should be reasonably high to motivate the government to continue to work.

Minister Rules Out Immediate Discount Rate Cut

OW0412022692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0159 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Friday dismissed the possibility of an immediate official discount rate cut, saying interest rates have been coming down to make funds relatively easy to obtain. Hata told a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting that there is no need to ease credit conditions "when viewing the economy from a broader point of view." The key interest rate, which the Bank of Japan charges on its loans to commercial banks, currently stands at 3.25 percent after being lowered by half a percentage point in July.

Hata's comment came a day after the release of gross national product (GNP) figures for the July-September quarter, which showed a contraction in the overall output of goods and services of 0.4 percent from the second quarter, or an annual decline of 1.6 percent. It was the first fall in the quarterly GNP in nearly three years. Some economists and industrialists have been calling for a further reduction of interest rates to speed up the recovery of the economy, which is taking longer than generally expected.

Referring to the GNP figure, Hata said "the July-September quarter is probably the bottom," and that some signs of light at the end of the tunnel are beginning to appear. He said he does not believe the economy will experience a further decline and is "not pessimistic" about conditions in the next fiscal year starting April 1. The recovery may not be so strong in the early stage of fiscal 1993 but the economy will build up the fundamentals necessary for a sustainable growth, Hata said.

The finance minister said he will be closely watching the effects of the government's pump-priming package contained in the supplementary budget pending approval in the Diet. With regard to compiling the draft of next fiscal year's budget, due later this month, Hata reiterated the government has no intention of floating debt-financing bonds. He said he will seek an increased sharing of the burden by local governments because of stagnant tax revenues, implying the central government may cut its grants to local administrations to partly cover the expected decline of tax revenue.

Planning Group Considers Medium-Term ODA Goal

OW0412150692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1430 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—A new study group of the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) held its first meeting Friday to set a new medium-term goal for Japan's official development assistance (ODA), EPA officials said.

They said the new goal is required since the government will complete at the end of this month its fourth

medium-term ODA program, calling for aid of 50 billion dollars over the next five years.

The study group will compile an interim report on a new goal in May, prior to next July's Tokyo Summit of major industrial nations, the officials said.

The group consists of scholars and other experts on foreign aid.

Friday's meeting discussed the promotion of Japanese aid in the post-cold war era, transition of former Soviet republics and East European countries to market economies, and ways of improving Japanese aid, they said.

Use of General Funds To Pay for Roads Urged

OW0412040992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0312 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe on Friday said the repair and building of roads should be paid for out of general financial resources and not through raising taxes on gasoline and gas oil, as proposed by the Construction Ministry. Watanabe, at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting, reiterated his opposition to the proposed tax increase.

"We should not go through the narrow path of a tax increase, but rather should openly pass through the main road of general resources," he said. "The basis of Japan's economic prosperity has depended on appropriate energy policies. Recklessly raising taxes could spoil the basis," Watanabe said.

Plane Has Near Miss With Fighters Over Okinawa

OW0412151492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—The pilot of a Southwest Airlines flight said Friday that his airplane nearly had a midair collision with fighter jets over Okinawa.

The pilot, Masayuki Yagyu, made the report to the Transport Ministry, ministry officials said.

Yagyu said he spotted four fighters ascending in front of his Boeing 737 with 139 people on board as the passenger plane was ascending at an altitude of 4,200 meters, 60 kilometers north- northwest of Naha Airport at 10:50 A.M. Friday.

Two of the fighters were approaching his plane and he had to make a right turn to avoid a collision, he said.

The two military jets were at the same altitude and only two or three kilometers away when at the closest distance from the passenger aircraft, he said.

Visibility was good at that time, he said.

The officials said no Self-Defense Forces aircraft was flying in the area, and the fighters were most likely American military aircraft.

The passenger plane later landed safely at Okayama Airport.

Key Tasks Proposed for Integrated Energy Project

OW0412102892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1004 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 4 KYODO—An advisory panel to the trade minister on Friday proposed priority research themes for an integrated energy project to develop technology for both energy-saving and environmental protection, Ministry of International Trade and Industry officials said.

The industrial technology council worked out 100 specific subjects for the large-scale project to be launched in fiscal 1993 starting next April, the officials said.

The project, dubbed "New Sunshine" program, integrates conventional projects seeking to develop alternatives to petroleum-based energies with technologies for energy-saving and restraining carbon dioxide emissions.

Among the subjects are development of less expensive, highly efficient solar batteries and research on biological means to solidify carbon dioxide, they said.

North Korea

NODONG SINMUN Calls Powell's Remarks 'Naked War Sermon'

SK0412030492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0011 GMT 4 Nov 92

[NODONG SINMUN 4 Dec commentary: "Naked War Sermon"]

[Text] According to reports, U.S. Joint Chief of Staff Powell contributed an article, "Advice to President-Elect Clinton," to the special edition of the U.S. magazine, "Foreign Affairs," several days ago. He said in this article that the U.S. current military strategy was established under the assumption of simultaneous wars in the Middle East and on the Korean peninsula and demanded that the new administration push ahead with this military plan. This is a naked war sermon.

These remarks indicate that the United States is focussing its military strategic spearhead on the Korean peninsula and making new Korean war provocation an urgent task. The United States is propagandizing socialism as an experiment that ended in failure and is trying to completely get rid of socialism worldwide. As part of this, it is giving priority to dominating our Republic, which is a stronghold of socialism.

The United States keeps carrying into effect its Cold War-era policy toward Korea based on strength, is trying

to reverse the atmosphere of reconciliation and detente, which is hanging over the Korean peninsula, and viciously maneuvering to realize its aggressive ambition. The U.S. ruling circles nullified their plan to withdraw the U.S. troops from South Korea under the pretext of the North's nonexistent nuclear development and decided to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise. This is an intensive manifestation of such a maneuver. Needless to say, these acts will result in creation of a new confrontation situation and increase the war danger on the Korean peninsula.

It was well known that the North and South pledged nonaggression and that the peaceful purpose of our nuclear policy was confirmed through the International Atomic Energy Agency's repeated inspections. Nevertheless, the United States is conducting its maneuvers to invade the North under the pretext of someone's threat and nuclear misgivings. This clearly shows its arrogance and bellicosity.

Taking mean advantage of the changed international situation in which balance of power is broken, the United States is behaving in such a manner under an insidious plot to destroy our socialist system.

The U.S. military circle's head openly demanded that the next U.S. Administration follow the predecessor's policy to invade the North. This is as good as demanding that the new U.S. Administration put a plan for Korean war into practice. Such absurd remarks come at the same time as voices are repeatedly heard—the United States will continuously retain its troops in South Korea, it will regard East Asia as of more special importance and at the same time, it will push ahead with its Far East strategy with an emphasis on frontline deployment capabilities. This draws our attention.

The facts show that the United States keeps promoting its anti-Republic war maneuvers and indicate that these maneuvers can lead to a new dangerous stage. It is not accidental that the United States is trying to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise next year and deploy the flexible deterrence option forces in South Korea, running counter to the flow of prevailing situation.

However, it is useless to expect something from our country by means of strength. We, who regard independence as life, will not tolerate any kind of anti-Republic maneuvers. The U.S. authorities should give up its anachronistic policy against our Republic and withdraw its troops from South Korea.

Choe U-chin Message Proposes 8 Dec JNCC Meeting

SK0212004392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Choe U-chin, chairman of our side to the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC], sent a telephone message to Kong No-myong, chairman of the South side, yesterday.

The telephone message pointed out as follows:

The basic mission of the North-South JNCC is to prevent the danger of nuclear war and achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, at recent JNCC meetings, our side pointed out that your side's decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, a nuclear war exercise, with the United States totally runs counter to the joint denuclearization declaration which both sides had agreed on. This is an act that poses grave obstacles to the JNCC's work. Our side also advanced an urgent proposal that your side cancel the plan by the end of November at all costs and has urged your side to accept this proposal. However, your side has not shown any affirmative attitude as of today, past the deadline. Your side rejected our just proposal that it cancel the agreement to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and started nuclear war exercises with foreign forces. This proves that your side has no intention to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

The mission of the JNCC is to denuclearize the Korean peninsula, prevent the danger of nuclear war, and ensure durable peace and security. Therefore, it is very natural that such dangers of war as the Team Spirit joint military exercise be removed.

Still, instead of accepting our side's just repeated demand that your side cancel the agreement to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise, your side rejected our proposal after all, under various unjust pretexts and built new artificial obstacles to the JNCC's work. I express deep worries and regrets over this.

We can never overlook the fact that your side has not canceled the agreement to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise and continuously victimized national interests by following foreign forces and that it is laying difficulties in the discussion of rules of inspection indispensable to a verification of the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and trying to delay the implementation of the joint denuclearization declaration.

Your side must place national interests above anything else and subordinate everything to implementing the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, which your side had agreed upon with the fellow countrymen, reject any foreign instigation and interference, and show sincerity in negotiations with the fellow countrymen.

Out of a desire to resolve at an early date the problem of the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, a matter related to the nation's existence, our side again urges your side to withdraw, in any form, the unjust stand on the resumption of the Team Spirit joint military exercises and proposes to hold the 12th meeting of the North-South joint nuclear control committee at 10:00 [0100 GMT] on 8 December, Tuesday, in your side's portion of Panmunjom.

IAEA's Blix Satisfied With Results of Inspections

AU0412085492 Paris AFP in English 0354 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Vienna, Dec 3 (AFP)—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on Thursday it was satisfied with the results of inspections it has been carrying out in North Korea since May this year.

The four missions carried out since May had gone ahead without difficulty, IAEA director general Hans Blix told the agency's board of governors meeting in Vienna, where the agency is based.

Blix said in his report that, over 195 days, IAEA inspectors had visited seven nuclear installations and two nuclear dumps which were on a list presented to IAEA by North Korea when an inspection accord was signed on April 10.

The North Korean Government also invited the agency to visit two other nuclear sites which were not on the list.

Blix said inspections would continue in line with the accord.

He also told the governors that Lithuania, Latvia, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan had signed the international Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, and Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan had declared their intention to adhere to the agreement "in the near future."

IAEA inspections of nuclear installations in South Africa had also been carried out satisfactorily, he added.

KCNA Reviews 4 Dec Pyongyang Press

SK0412053292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were widely disseminated and studied abroad.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il extended thanks to a couple, both tractor drivers, of the Sasan co-op farm in Sukchon County, South Pyongan Province who have trained 36 farmers to be tractor drivers, say papers.

Printed in dailies is a letter to Comrade Kim Chong-il sent by Sin Chong-ho, director of the Songyo district, Pyongyang, publications distribution centre who is a Japanese woman.

A message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the 14th congress of the Communist Party of Portugal is carried in NODONG SINMUN.

The paper carries a signed article dealing with the noble traits of the Korean intellectuals faithful to the leader's cause of revolution.

Given in it is an account of the 16th plenary meeting of the C.C. [Central Committee] the Korean Democratic Women's Union in Pyongyang.

Papers inform the readers of achievements made by working people in production and construction.

The press reports that the Korean ambassador paid a farewell call on the Bangladeshi president.

"Open letter on nuclear arms development in South Korea" made public by the C.C., the South Korean National Democratic Front is seen in dailies.

They carry information No. 616 of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland denouncing assaults of U.S. soldiers upon South Korean people.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary lashing out at chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Powell's jargon on carrying out a war simultaneously in the Mideast and the Korean peninsula.

It conveys what foreign political and public figures said in praise of Korean-style socialism.

The world public criticized Japan's plutonium shipment, according to the daily.

It carries an article stressing that the Pyongyang declaration is the common action programme for the revolutionary parties all over the world.

World news of the paper includes reports that the Nigerian president called for stability of the country, the Thai prime minister referred to the educational development in rural areas and the Russian side expressed its intention to freeze or shelve negotiations with Japan over the disputed islands.

NODONG SINMUN Criticizes South's 'Traitorous Activity'

SK0212025592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0022 GMT 2 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 2 December commentary: "An Ugly Traitorous Activity by the Nuclear War Servant"]

[Text] The South Korean authorities are unhesitatingly committing sycophant and traitorous activities to injure their fellow countrymen in collaboration with foreign forces, reversing the agreement with us. This is proven by the South side's activities recently shown in dialogue with us.

As is known, at the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee [JNCC] meetings recently held to rescue various kinds of North-South dialogue, faced with the crisis of suspension, and to smoothly implement the overall points agreed upon between the North and the South, our side has strongly demanded that the South side unconditionally withdraw the decision to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise.

In addition, our side has urged that to conduct the North-South nuclear inspection at an early date, the South side accept without delay our demand that an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea be conducted.

Judging from the fellow countrymen's desire for opening a phase for peace and peaceful reunification by sincerely implementing the North-South agreement and judging from the North-South JNCC mission to put an end to nuclear war danger by realizing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, our demand and claim are too just. Therefore, there is no reason for the South side not to accept our demand and claim.

However, the South side has claimed that because no fruition has been borne so far in connection with the nuclear inspection issue between the North and the South, the decision to resume the Team Spirit military exercise should not be withdrawn. It tried to reverse black and white as if the North-South nuclear inspection could not been realized because of us. This is nothing but the expression of its vicious attempt to constantly maintain South Korea as the U.S. nuclear base and to persistently ignite the fuse of nuclear war against us in collaboration with the United States.

As for the delay of the North-South nuclear inspection, its responsibility is entirely placed upon the South side. There is no one who doesn't know that the joint declaration on denuclearization between the North and the South was adopted and validated; that the North-South JNCC is operated and that the discussion of the regulations on the North-South nuclear inspection to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization is under way.

Our stand in connection with the issue of the North-South nuclear inspection is that an overall inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and bases in South Korea be conducted. Considering the circumstances in which South Korea has been officially recognized as the U.S. nuclear base, our claim is just.

The point is that the South Korean authorities have not accepted our just claim and are trying to exclude the U.S. nuclear weapons and base from the list of nuclear inspection items. In fact, this proceeds from the criminal ambition of delaying the discussion of the regulations on nuclear inspection; of preventing overall nuclear inspection by aborting the JNCC meeting itself, of nailing down the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea, and of conducting a nuclear attack in collaboration with the United States.

The South Korean authorities have said that only when mutual nuclear inspection is conducted can the issue of stopping the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise be considered. This is entirely reversed logic.

The Team Spirit joint military exercise is a military exercise only in words. Rather, it is a very dangerous test nuclear war to attack us with nuclear weapons. Meetings for adopting rules of nuclear inspection cannot take place smoothly when guns and cannon resound in a nuclear war exercise against the meeting partner. Even when rules of inspection are adopted, no one can enter South Korea to conduct nuclear inspections. If the Team Spirit nuclear war exercise is resumed in South Korea, this will pose grave obstacles to our implementation of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

The South Korean authorities have turned a blind eye to issues that are of basic importance in North-South nuclear inspections, including the cancellation of the measure to resume Team Spirit joint military exercise. They have, rather, kicked up commotions after finding fault with our nonexistent nuclear issue. Their purpose is clear.

Instead of the theory of threats of southward invasion, which was done for in the world, they have manufactured another theory of threats of southward invasion called suspicions of the North's nuclear development. In this way, they have been trying to justify the occupation of South Korea by the U.S. forces, the policy of turning South Korea into a nuclear base, and the maneuvers to provoke a nuclear war. In other words, they are trying to fulfill their ambition to achieve reunification after prevailing over communism by continuously offering South Korea as a U.S. forward nuclear base and provoking a nuclear war of northward aggression with outside forces.

All facts show that after openly ignoring their promise with us to resolve the reunification issue with national strength and efforts, the South Korean authorities are rushing along the antinational, antipeace, and antireunification road of swallowing their fellow countrymen with the help of outside forces.

The South Korean authorities unhesitatingly discard their agreement with their fellow countrymen and offer the nation as a victim in outside force' nuclear war. Therefore, they are treacherous nation-sellers, dirty servants of the imperialists, and nuclear war servants who have a slightest trace of national conscience or independence.

The South Korean authorities try to get something with the help of outside force by staging military provocations against us or threatening us. This is a foolish illusion.

The South side must abandon its toadyist, nation-selling position to attach greater significance to its collusion with outside forces than to its agreement with its fellow countrymen, assume a stand of national independence, and sincerely implement the North-South agreement and the joint denuclearization declaration.

If, despite our repeated demands, the South side does not cancel its measure to resume the Team Spirit joint military exercise under the North's nuclear issue and starts it after all, it will be held fully responsible for all the consequences that may arise therefrom.

NODONG SINMUN Stresses Purity of Socialist Idea

SK0312024792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0007 GMT 2 Dec 92

[NODONG SINMUN 2 December special articie: "Adherence to Purity of Socialist Ideology Is Important Demand in Building the Ruling Party"]

[Text] In his classic work, "On Essential Issues in Building a Revolutionary Party," dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il scientifically analyzed the reasons for the collapse of parties which were building socialism for scores of years after seizing political power through arduous revolutionary struggle. Based on this analysis, he clearly expounded a historic teaching.

The historic teaching expounded in this document stressed that to accomplish the socialist cause to the end, one should adhere to purity of socialist ideology.

Dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: The historic teaching, learned from collapse of socialist ruling parties and of socialist system in many countries, shows that to accomplish the socialist cause, one should firmly adhere to purity of socialist ideology.

The thesis of the comrade dear leader elucidated that firm adherence to the purity of socialist ideology is an important issue related to the destiny of a socialist ruling party and of a socialist system.

In socialist society, ideology is the life. The socialist society develops by lofty revolutionary zeal of the popular masses, who are firmly armed with socialist ideology, and by their creative activeness.

When the popular masses are thoroughly armed with socialist ideology and struggle with unity based on this ideology, socialism is to win victory at all times. But if the popular masses are ideologically ill, they cannot unite and socialism is doomed to ruin.

The socialist ideology is a theory, strategy and tactics in revolutionary struggle of the working class to eliminate exploitation and oppression and to completely realize the independence of the working masses.

The circumstance and conditions of revolutionary struggle may change but the basic ideal and demand of socialism cannot change. The struggle to adhere to purity of socialist ideology is the struggle to embody the basic ideal and demand of socialism. Deviation from this means surrender and defection on the road of socialism.

Adherence to purity of socialist ideology is an important guarantee for unity and cohesion of the party based on the leader's monolithic idea and for the party of the working class to push ahead with revolution and construction with indomitable might.

The unity and cohesion of the party based on one ideology—the leader's revolutionary idea—are the most important factors defining the might and firmness of the party. No one can destroy the unity and cohesion of the party, which are based on monolithic ideology, with any strength. Therefore, for the socialist ruling party to become a powerful and mighty party, one should ensure ideological purity of the entire party.

Adherence to ideological purity is furthermore important for the party of the working class—a political organization of the people who share ideas and ieals with each other and who jointly struggle for the common cause.

Each political party should realize unity and cohesion thoroughly based on its own guiding ideology, and should not accept any other ideology into the party. Just as one can lose one's life if other type of blood is infused into one's body, if various ideologies are accepted into the party, the party will not be able to prevent itself from being ruined ideologically and from being split organizationally. The party itself will collapse at last.

The might of the party is to be defined according to how one consolidates the organizational and ideological foundation of the party. The purity of the party ranks is to be realized by ideological purity. Therefore, for one to consolidate the party organizationally and ideologically, one should ensure the monolithic nature of ideology and should firmly arm the entire party with the leader's revolutionary ideology. Thus, one should make the party a pure organizational and ideological body of combatants who are endlessly loyal to the party and to the leader.

For a party to become mighty, it should establish a firm mass foundation. If the masses are armed with socialist ideology, they will support the party which is a vanguard of the socialist cause. However, if they are contaminated with impure ideologies, they will turn their faces away from the party.

If the party opens its door to the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration, not consistently carrying out work to arm the popular masses with socialist ideology, the masses' overall awakening will be dull and the masses will be deceived by anti-imperialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. Thus, they will even come to a point of opposing the party and the government.

Firmly adhering to the purity of socialist ideology means it is an important demand for the party of the working class to think of all problems raised in the revolution and construction with its own brain and to resolve them with its own strength.

Socialism in our era is to be built with each nation and state as a unit. Specific conditions and circumstances in each nation are not the same. The degree of preparedness and ideological determination of the people in each nation are different from each other. Therefore, a socialist ruling party should think of all problems with its own brain and resolve them with its own brain as appropriate for that nation.

Doctrinism and flunkeyism are a dangerous ideological element in carrying out the socialist cause independently and creatively. If one is contaminated with doctrinism and flunkeyism, one will dance to tune of others, instead of carrying out one's activities according to one's own faith, and will introduce revisionism by following others. As a result, one, engrossed with the fantasy of developed capitalist countries, is apt to indiscriminately induce capitalist methods at last.

Experiences in building socialism in other countries cannot be an almighty prescription applicable to all countries. Needless to say, one may introduce good experiences of other people but one should apply them, in the event of introducing them, in a creative manner in conformity with the specific situation in one's own country.

Strict precaution and the thorough overcoming of doctrinism and flunkeyism are an inevitable demand in accomplishing the socialist cause to the end.

Historic teachings show that when a socialist ruling party copies intact from other's experience, being engrossed with doctrinism and flunkeyism, and indiscriminately attends on [somgida] large countries, this party is apt to ignore the interest of its own people and to spoil the revolution and construction.

This vigorously proves how just is the idea of our party that if people pursue flunkeyism, they will become a fool, if a nation pursues flunkeyism, it will be ruined, and if a party pursues flunkeyism, it will spoil the revolution and construction.

Firmly adhering to the purity of socialist ideology is a mighty method enabling one to thoroughly smash the imperialists' ideological offensive. The socialist cause is to be accomplished in the midst of fierce ideological struggle against the imperialists.

The imperialists are to apply various schemes and vicious plots in an attempt to block victorious advance of socialism. In particular, they are attempting to spread the bourgeois idea into socialist society by intensifying their ideological offensive and to paralyze and ideologically destroy the people's revolutionary consciousness. These are the stereotypical tactics of the imperialists. If people fail to prevent this, their faith in socialism will be demolished and socialist society will degenerate from inside.

The confrontation with the imperialists is an ideological confrontation. An important key to victory in this confrontation is for the party of the working class to firmly adhere to the purity of socialist ideology.

The imperialists' idea that is directly opposed to socialist ideology is the bourgeois idea. However, the bourgeois idea cannot block the sticking power of socialist ideology.

The bourgeois idea reflects the avaricious class demand of the exploiting class. No matter how one may embellish this idea with hypocritical words, one cannot conceal its reactionary nature.

The working popular masses accept the socialist ideology that reflects their independent demand, not the bourgeois idea that reflects the demand of the exploiting class infringing upon their independence. Accordingly, the imperialists are scheming to spread revisionism, which they reformed from socialist ideology in a bid to suite their taste, in socialist countries by using the betrayers of socialism and reactionaries.

Revisionism is a very dangerous ideological trend which spoils and degenerates socialism.

As the immortal work pointed out, revisionism serves as a major dangerous element in carrying out the socialist cause both in the past and present days.

Revisionism reflects the bourgeois idea which appeared in the communist movement. Revisionism blocked the road of revolutionary transition into socialism in capitalist countries while being utilized as an ideological tool for the imperialists' peaceful transition strategy in socialist countries and for opening the road of returning to capitalism.

The historical teachings given by parties in some countries which collapsed due to the introduction of revisionism show that only when one correctly looks into the reactionary nature of modern revisionism and only when one thoroughly opposes and rejects modern revisionism can one tenaciously safeguard the socialist cause.

The idea of firmly adhering to purity of socialist ideology, which comrade dear leader elucidated in his immortal work, is a programmatic guideline which one should firmly grasp in building and activities of the socialist ruling party.

With the elucidation of this idea, it was expounded that the socialist ruling party should pay primary attention to the work of firmly adhering to ideological purity in the building of and in the activities of the party and should thoroughly establish a monolithic ideological system of the party based on the leader's revolutionary idea.

Thus, a basic guideline was provided, enabling the socialist ruling party to fulfill its mission and role as a vanguard of the revolution which guides the socialist cause to the end.

The idea of firmly adhering to purity of socialist ideology also has great significance in consolidating and developing the socialist system. This idea clearly shows that the decisive factor defining destiny and future of socialist system is to firmly adhere to the purity of socialist ideology. Thus, the idea gives a mighty ideological and theoretical weapon to the parties of the working class, enabling them to reject and overcome any strange ideological element which spoils the socialist ideology.

The elucidation of the idea of firmly adhering to the purity of socialist ideology by dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in his work is another immortal ideological and theoretical achievement made in the domain of building a socialist ruling party.

NODONG SINMUN Says 'External Obstacles to Reunification' Remain

SK2811071192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 28 (KCNA)—The South Korean chief executive recently told that "external obstacles to reunification" have been eliminated thanks to the "promotion of the northern policy". Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says that it, revealing his true color as an anti-reunification element, is an outburst which can be made only by those who are dreaming about "reunification through absorption of the North".

As for the external obstacles to reunification which No Tae-u claimed have been removed, they still exist in the South of the Korean peninsula, the analyst says, and continues:

Now when a historical agreement and the joint declaration on the denuclearization were adopted and effectuated between the North and the South and national reconciliation and unity are badly required for their implementation, the U.S. imperialists have had military confabs with the South Korean authorities and have become all the more frantic in nuclear war exercises against the DPRK, casting a chill over the situation on the Korean peninsula that has been developing favourably.

Though the U.S. forces, the chief obstacle to Korean reunification, are still present in South Korea, the South Korean chief executive claimed that "external obstacles to reunification have been removed". This is a revelation of his flunkeyist nature of serving the United States as his master and an expression of his criminal intention to "reunify the country by prevailing over communism", the intention to kill fellow countrymen in league with outside forces and extend the colonial fascist rule all over Korea.

If the South Korean authorities are interested in reunification, they must call for an end to the South Korean occupation and interference by the U.S. forces, a stumbling block in the settlement of the reunification question, and refrain from such acts as trampling down the inter-Korean agreement, following outside forces.

KCNA Cites Daily's Praise of UN Resolution on Cuban Blockade

SK3011053092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 30 Nov 92

["NODONG SINMUN Congratulates Cuban People on Their Victory"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—The General Assembly of the United Nations has recently passed a resolution "need to terminate economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba" which was submitted by Cuba. This means a victory of international solidarity with the just position of Cuba and, at the same time, a blow to the United States, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The Korean people hail the victory of the Cuban people and extend firm solidarity to them, the commentary notes, and goes on:

The United States, regarding Cuba as a thorn in the flesh from the very day after the victory of the Cuban revolution, has left no stones unturned to bring this country to submission, resorting to political offensive, open armed intervention and overall economic blockade against it. Typical of it is "Torricelli Amendment" announced by the U.S. recently.

Its recklesss moves touched off anger and resistance of the Cuban people and invited hatred and indignation of the world people. The U.N. resolution on putting an end to the U.S. economic blockade policy against Cuba reflects such trend of the times and the will of the peoples.

With no maneuverings, can the United States break the faith in socialism which has rooted deep in the minds of the Cuban people and block their dynamic advance for their just cause?

The U.S. must stop its base anti-Cuba moves and honestly implement the U.N. resolution for an end to economic blockade against Cuba.

Vice Premier Participates in National Women's Meeting

SK0312085092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 3 (KCNA)—A national meeting of chairwomen of model primary organizations of women's union was held in Pyongyang over December 1-2.

Discussed at the meeting was "On Enhancing the Function and Role of Primary Women's Union Organizations To Train All Union Members as True Loyalists and Filial Daughters Boundlessly Faithful to the Party and the Leader".

Participating in the meeting were alternate Politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and Vice-premier Kim Pok-sin, secretary of the C.C., WPK Kim Chung-nin, secretary of the C.C., the Korean Democratic Women's Union Kang Chom-suk, officials concerned and chairwomen of model primary women's union organizations from different parts of the country.

At the meeting Secretary Kang Chom-suk made a report which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers said that the great leader President Kim Il-song set forth the unique idea and policies on the building of women's organization, organized the women's union after the liberation and established a well-organized system on the basis of the precious experiences gained in the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, has indicated the road

ahead of the union at each stage of the developing revolution and led it to discharge its duty for the party and the revolution.

President Kim Il-song's chuche-based idea on building working organizations is being carried into reality under the leadership of the party, they said, adding: The women's organizations are being steadily strengthened and developed.

A letter of pledge to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

Korean Democratic Women's Union Holds Plenary Meeting

SK0412105292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The 16th plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Democratic Women's Union [KDWU] was held in Pyongyang on 3 December. Present at the plenary meeting were Won Tong-ku, director of a department of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee, members and alternate members of the KDWU Central Committee, and the KDWU functionaries of the provinces, cities, counties, and important plants and enterprises.

The plenary meeting discussed measures to more effectively conduct the work of establishing the party's leadership system among KDWU members in accordance with the demands of developing realities. Kang Chom-suk, secretary of the KDWU Central Committee, made a report at the plenary meeting. The report was followed by speeches by many participants.

The reporter and the speakers stressed that thoroughly establishing the party's leadership system is now a fundamental requirement to add luster to the tradition of wholehearted unity around the party and the leader generation after generation and to inherit and complete to the end the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The plenary meeting noted that all the KDWU members' are truly contributing to adding further luster to the socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses by making continuous efforts in the work of loyally upholding the party's leadership as the most important task assigned to the KDWU, and put forward measures for it.

The plenary meeting noted the need for conducting, in various forms and methods, the indoctrination work of making the KDWU members extensively and deeply aware of the greatness of the respected and beloved leader and our party so that the loyalty may become their faith, conscience, morality, and life, thus preparing all the KDWU members to be true loyalists and dutiful children.

The plenary meeting noted the KDWU organizations should inform the KDWU members of the great leader's teachings and the party's lines and policies, their embodiment, in a timely manner and vigorously inspire the members to implement them.

The plenary meeting noted the need to organize the ranks of the primary level functionaries of the KDWU well, to enhance their sense of responsibility and role, and to strengthen the primary level organizations, the basic organizations of the KDWU, so as to turn the entire KDWU membership into the ranks that move and act consistently according to the party's will.

The plenary meeting noted that all the KDWU members should more highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude in accordance with the demand of the prevailing situation and the revolution, that they should love the People's Army as their own flesh and blood and help them wholeheartedly, and that they should actively contribute to the struggle for socialist construction, such as agricultural production, light industrial goods production, and the 30,000 housing unit construction in the capital city.

The plenary meeting adopted an appropriate decree.

Kim Il-song Sends Birthday Greetings to Thai King

SK0412111192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 4 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings today to Thai King Phumiphon Adunyadet on his 65th birthday.

President Kim Il-song in his message expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will grow stronger and develop and wished the King health and happiness and the King and people of Thailand greater success in the work for the country's prosperity.

Greets Lao Party, State Leaders

SK0112131792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 1 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today sent a message of greetings to Khamtai Siphandon, president of the C.C. [Central Committee], Lao People's Revolutionary Party, and Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], on the occasion of the 17th birthday of the LPDR.

The message says:

After the founding of the Republic the Lao people, under the correct leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], have made a great progress in their struggle to defend the gains of the revolution and achieve socio-economic development, braving out various difficulties.

Today vigorous efforts are being made in your country to strengthen the unity and cohesion of the party and enhance its leadership role, consolidate the people's power and build a prosperous, new Laos.

I take this opportunity to express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two parties, two countries and two peoples will further strengthen and develop and wholeheartedly wish you and your people greater success in the endeavours to implement the decisions of the fifth congress of the LPRP.

Greets Romanian President

SK3011134892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea today sent a message of greetings to President Ion Iliescu on the national holiday of Romania.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries will continue to develop, the message wishes Romania prosperity.

Kim Chong-il Sends Letters of Thanks to Workers, Athletes

SK3011132392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a letter of thanks to the party members and other workers of the Aeguk Moran clothing factory who have made big success in the fulfillment of their plan.

They have overfulfilled this year's plan and their quota envisaged in the third seven year-plan (1987-1993) by expanding and strengthening the material and technical foundations of the factory and effecting collective innovations in the production.

They produced a large quantity of ready-made clothes for Pyongyang citizens through the movements for technical innovations and increased production and economy.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent a letter of thanks to the sportsmen and officials of the Amnokang sports team who demonstrated the honour of the country and wisdom of the Korean nation by winning many medals in the 25th Summer Olympics.

Central Mining Institute Produces New Flotation Machine

SK3011122192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1002 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang November 30 (KCNA)—The Korean Central Mining Institute turned out a new-type flotation machine.

The turning wings of the previous machines were installed on the floor of flotation room but the new in the middle of the room, so as to inhale and mix air to make foams of mining fluid. Two motors were needed for two turning wings, but now one is enough.

Yi Ki-hun and other scientists of the ore dressing equipment research room of the institute pooled collective efforts and intelligence to successfully solve the problems of markedly increasing the capacity of dealing with ores and the rate of actual extraction from concentrates and the problems of reasonable structure of turning wings, the lattice structure which is less worn away and quality.

The new flotation machine is highly estimated at the international invention exhibition. It is now paying off at the ore dressing plant No. 2 of the Komdok Mining Complex and other ore mines.

New Factories Begin Operation in Yanggang Province

SK3011134192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Pyongyang Nov. 30 (KCNA)—A meat processing factory and a sugar beet processing factory in Taehongdan County, Yanggang Province, in the northern Alpine region of Korea were put into operation.

The Taehongdan meat processing factory consists of the main building of 12,000 square metres and other buildings including public service establishments.

This factory is mechanized and automated from the input of raw material to the output of goods and will produce sausage, ham, canned goods, soap and others.

The modernly-equipped Taehongdan sugar beet processing factory will produce sugar, alcohol, and feed of animals with sugar beet produced in this area to contribute to the development of foodstuff industry and stock breeding.

With the commissioning of these factories, special product processing industry in this area will further develop so as to produce and supply a large amount of delicious and nutritive foodstuffs to the local people and those visiting the revolutionary battle sites.

The inaugural ceremonies were held on the spot on November 28.

South Korea

No Tae-u Views Economic Progress, Election

SK0412021792 Seoul MBC Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Interview with President No Tae-u by News Bureau Director Yi Sang-yol of Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation, MBC, at the presidential residence of Chongwadae on 2 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Yi Sang-yol] In a special interview with MBC at the end of 1990, you stressed the need to achieve forward-looking policies, including maintaining economic stability and sustained growth, and building a foundation for reunification. You stressed that these are the tasks that must be achieved during the second half of your term of office. Are you satisfied with the results?

[No Tae-u] Policies are carried out based on reality. Of course, politicians seek the best, but sometimes politicians should find satisfaction in second best. With this in mind, I can say that we have achieved satisfactory success. As for our economy, at that time I expressed my firm will before our fellow countrymen to restore our economy's international competitiveness. Looking back on the past five years, I can say we overcame a very difficult situation. We had to pay an enormous price for that. Recalling that period, however, I can say that we achieved a foundation for economic stability and growth and that we have both now. [passage omitted on remarks on economic successes, including achieving price stability and vitalizing foreign trade]

[Yi] The presidential election campaign is now in full swing. Thirteen days have passed since political parties officially began their election campaign activity. The presidential election day is only 15 days away. What do you think about the recent election campaign atmosphere?

[No] The recent election campaign atmosphere seems to have improved greatly when compared with the past. I take this as a green light that the election climate and the political climate will be rectified. Of course, undesirable scenes have taken place in some stumping sites. In particular, as indicated by the print media, a vote-buying election campaign is rampant, and this is indeed regrettable. Presidential candidates, as well as overall political circles, should rectify such a phenomenon. However, a desirable phenomenon that we have recently witnessed is that the trend of forcibly mobilizing the masses to stump at rally sites has completely disappeared. Such a development is indeed desirable. This is because our people's attitude has changed toward elections and their level of consciousness has also been enhanced. Along with this, I will take this opportunity to completely eradicate such an election campaign phenomenon of relying on and using government power. My conviction and confidence in doing so is very firm.

As I mentioned earlier, the phenomena of vote buying and using dark propaganda in the election campaign should be eradicated. Frankly speaking, however, the government alone cannot accomplish this. First of all, candidates themselves and political circles should try to eradicate such undesirable election campaign practices. Of course, the government itself will do its best. All of the people, too, should actively cooperate in this.

[Yi] A neutral cabinet is managing the presidential election under a situation wherein the incumbent president has no party affiliation. This is unprecedented in the history of our Constitution. The people have high expectations toward the present neutral cabinet. Do you think the present neutral cabinet is properly carrying out its inherent role?

[No] Some time ago, I read in a leading daily an article highly assessing the present government's will and conviction to remain neutral. I was greatly comforted by this. I think that it is the first time in our history that such an article was carried in a daily. I can say with confidence that our neutral cabinet is managing the presidential election in a very fair and strict manner. It is also stabilizing state affairs in a correct way.

I am very satisfied with the present neutral cabinet led by Prime Minister Hyon Sung-chong. I think our people, as well, agree with me. [passage omitted]

[Yi] We will once again shift our topic to politics. You have experienced many critical moments since you entered politics, such as the 29 June declaration, the merger of three political parties, and the relinquishing of your Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] membership. What improvement do you think is needed most in our political climate.

[No] I would like to say something about our political climate, although it may be embarrassing to politicians. I think politicians should think of the country's future. Pseudo-politicians, who are not genuine politicians, think only of their winning the election. Perhaps because there is keen competition among those engaged in politics in our country, many politicians seem to be bent on winning the party nomination for the next election with little consideration for the country's future. Instead of making reasonable and rational judgments on something, they are liable to act on instant sentiment. They choose extreme ways. This is deplorable. The world is rapidly changing. The 21st century is just around the corner. The politicians should take the lead ahead of any other stratum of people when considering the country's future. Instead, they are somewhat behind the people of other sectors in this matter.

The politicians are inclined to attach importance to causes, principles, and the general outline. They emphasize these factors but are weak in implementing them step by step. They are also weak on specifics. This does not apply to all politicians. I see a number of 14th National Assembly lawmakers both from the ruling and opposition parties engaging in a new campaign to become studious lawyers and clean politicians. I have great expectations for them. I hope their campaigns will prove fruitful. [passage omitted]

[Yi] Seeing our country's present economic condition, we note that there is some degree of stability in the making, but quite a few people are concerned about the growth slowdown. On what economic policies do you place the greatest emphasis in the final period of your term of office?

[No] Economic stability is important, but growth should not be neglected. For this, we have almost completed an

economic structure readjustment. Fortunately, the speed in this process is being accelerated. The growth is being slowed down. Some are concerned about the low growth of 3.2 percent during the third quarter of the year. Frankly speaking, it is easy to increase growth a little bit. If we stimulate the domestic economy, we can increase the growth right away. But if we boost the domestic economy, the effect of our efforts for restructuring the economy will be decreased by more than half. Therefore, we ought to endure and share the pain of slowing down the growth through the readjustment of the structure on our way to becoming an advanced country. We should concentrate our efforts on it so that the stability of our economy may settle down. At the same time, we should enhance our competitiveness. The government is formulating measures for this. If we increase our international competitiveness, we can attain growth automatically. This is growth which is sound and desirable and which is not bubble economic growth, as it were. [passage omitted]

[Yi] You had summit talks in China and Japan during the second half of the year. Two weeks ago, Russian President Yeltsin visited the ROK. Please tell us your opinion on winding up your northern policy.

[No] I am filled with emotion when I look back on the northern policy that I have conducted. Our country has been the greatest victim of the cold war. Because of the cold war, the country was divided and we experienced the tragedy of the Korean war. Since the Korean war, we have constantly worried about the possibility of war between the North and the South. Therefore, we have to bear the enormous burden of maintaining our security. The shooting down of the Korean airliner which the former Soviet Union committed would not have occurred if we had established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

Five years ago in Inchon, I began to work out a northern policy in an effort to find a solution to our unfortunate background. Soon after, I began to implement it. I thought while in Inchon that we should make our way to Pyongyang by way of China and the Soviet Union. There was no other way. We could open the door no matter how hard we might have knocked on it in Panmunjom. We had to make our way through the path we could proceed along. We had to alter our one-way diplomacy. We had to carry on exchange with China, establish diplomatic relations with it, and form neighborly, friendly relations with it. With this in view, we declared the era of the West Coast.

Because the ice of the cold war in those days was so thick, even if I talked about my idea, it was not very convincing. But we managed to do it. The idea of going to Pyongyang by way of Beijing and Moscow proved to be a correct one. Together with our people, I see with great pride and sense of satisfaction the position of our country—which was in the far corner of the West in the cold-war era—now standing in the center with the four countries, the United States, Japan, Russia, and China near us.

[Yi] In February of next year the Clinton administration will start work in the United States. Also, our government will be newly changed. What is your prospect for the future of ROK-U.S. relations?

[No] During the past five years, I held summit talks with the U.S. president on seven occasions. This shows that the two countries achieved very close and friendly and cooperative relations. I am proud to say that holding talks this many times was unprecedented. I told the leaders of the United States that relations between our two countries are as important as relations between the United States and Great Britain, and the U.S. side unhesitatingly agreed with this. The Clinton administration will set sail soon. I believe that there will be no change in relations between our two countries. Through a news conference, President-Elect Clinton had already actively expressed the support that he is in conformity with our reunification policy. While talking over the telephone with Clinton on 13 November, we consolidated various friendly relations and he especially clearly revealed that the U.S. troops should continue to remain in Korea. In addition he said that he will work to check North Korea's nuclear program through cooperation so that this can be achieved without fail. He also congratulated us on the success of our democracy, and expressed the position that he was very satisfied with the on-going trade between the two countries, which is being carried out in a very balanced way. Of course, there can be some friction in trade between the two countries because our country has also developed, but I believe that the basis for ROK-U.S. relations will be well maintained without any change in the future as well.

[Yi] Next, I would like to ask you about the South-North issue. Recently various channels of dialogue and promotion for economic cooperation between the South and North have been suspended or are marking time. In other words, this is in a slump. What do you think is the reason for this?

[No] As you know, North Korea is now on the verge of economic destruction. It is also in a state of isolation from the outside. To free itself from this kind of situation, North Korea is struggling in every way, but I believe that it is inevitable to carry out reform and open policy. The North Korean leadership is faced with the fear that if reform and open policy are carried out, the essence of their system will become upset. Because North Korea is under this kind of situation, it is making slow progress in putting into practice the agreed upon matters with our side, is avoiding to hold dialogue with us, and is also afraid of us. This is the direct reason that South-North relations are not so smooth.

[Yi] Then, is there a fundamental strategy to overcome this stagnant situation?

[No] Yes there is. Fundamentally our government will steadily persuade North Korea through direct dialogue even though its position is rigid and remains silent. This is our first fundamental policy. The second one is to have close cooperation with our neighboring allies—Japan, the United States, China, Russia—so that they can play the role of mediator and create an atmosphere for reunification on the Korean peninsula. If these fundamental policies are carried out, it will be inevitable for North Korea to respond. I believe this will happen in the near future.

[Yi] When viewing the rapidly changing international situation and North Korea's domestic situation, which is becoming more aggravated, many people say that the time for reunification will be achieved considerably ahead of schedule. Some people also point out that the government is somewhat negligent in preparation for this. What is your opinion, Mr. President?

[No] I have always emphasized that reunification between the South and North can be realized suddenly, as was the case of Germany's unification, and that we must prepare for that. However, the media is saying that the government is hastening reunification too much, that it has a too optimistic view on reunification, and so on. Still, I ordered all reunification-related departments to make all preparations for this and draft a scenario for possible unexpected reunification. These departments are making practical preparations. I do not think it would be desirable to achieve reunification under a situation in which North Korea changed suddenly, accompanied by some kind of misfortune. We anticipate carrying out change in an orderly manner and under a situation where it is possible to regulate control. [passage omitted]

Russia 'Must' Hand Over Missing KAL 007 Tapes

SK0412055192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0545 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—Russia must hand over the missing black box tapes from Korean Air Lines (KAL) 007, downed by a Soviet fighter nine years ago, South Korean officials said Friday.

They confirmed that Korea believes the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) should direct the investigation rather than Russia.

Officials from the presidential office, and the Foreign and Transportation Ministries met to devise countermeasures to the omission of the tapes from missing flight data recorder [FDR] of KAL 007 and the Russian proposal to form an international commission to investigate the shooting down of the jetliner.

A Soviet fighter fired a missile into the packed plane over Sakhalin in 1983 for violating its air space, killing all 269 people aboard.

The black boxes that Russian President Boris Yeltsin handed over during his Seoul trip two weeks ago were missing the FDR tapes, which are critical to explaining the accident.

Moscow says it wants an international commission among South Korea, Russia, Japan, the United States and ICAO to meet in Moscow next week for a joint investigation.

Officials here said they confirmed at Friday's meeting that Moscow should hand over the FDR tapes to Seoul, and that ICAO should be leading the investigation.

They said they weren't able to decide whether to accept the Russian proposal for the international commission and will have to wait until after more consultations with Japan and the United States.

"There are still some unexplained elements to Russia's proposal on the commission. We are in the process of confirming the details with Moscow," one official said.

South Proposes Holding JNCC Talks 10 Dec

SK0412080492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0755 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea will try again Dec. 10 to hold talks on the simultaneous nuclear inspection that Seoul demands before the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks.

Kong No-myong, Southern-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC], sent a message Friday to his North Korean counterpart, Choe U-chin, accepting Pyongyang's proposal to open the 12th commission session on Dec. 10 at the truce village of Panmunjom.

"We stress again our position that the first inter-Korean nuclear inspection must take place before Dec. 21," Kong's message said. The deadline is the day the prime ministers' talks are to begin in Seoul.

The last JNCC talks, Nov. 27, failed after Pyongyang demanded that the annual South Korea-U.S. military exercise Team Spirit not be resumed next year.

Deputy Premier Expected To Meet Li Peng During PRC Visit

SK0212104792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1038 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 2 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Planning Minister Choe Kak-kyu is set to make an official visit to China for six days beginning Dec. 6 at the invitation of China's Vice Premier and State Planning Minister Zou Jiahua.

The Economic Planning Board announced Wednesday that during his stay in Beijing, Deputy Premier Choe is expected to have a series of talks with Premier Li Peng, Vice Premier

Zou and other Chinese leaders to explore ways to expedite economic exchanges between the two countries.

Choe will be the highest South Korean official to visit Beijing following President No Tae-u's tour last autumn in the wake of Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization.

Among the topics will be the issue of Korean industries' participation in eighth five-year plan schemes of China and China's suggestion for investment by Korea in their major projects.

The deputy premier will be accompanied by Kim Tae-yon, director of the international policy coordination office, and six other officials of the Economic Planning Board.

IAEA's Blix Says Talks With DPRK Beneficial

SK0412004792 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2300 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] It has been learned that Hans Blix, secretary general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], urged North Korea to sincerely implement the nuclear accord. On 30 November, Secretary General Hans Blix met with Choe Hak-kun, North Korea's minister of atomic energy industry, and discussed the results of the four rounds of the IAEA's inspection and suspicious sites, including unreported sites. Correspondent Cha Man-sun reports from Vienna:

[Begin Cha recording] IAEA Secretary General Hans Blix told yesterday's Board of Governors meeting that he had extensively discussed the results of the four rounds of inspection with Choe Hak-kun, North Korea's minister of atomic energy industry, and that the talks with him would be very beneficial to future inspections in North Korea.

Secretary General Hans Blix also said that during the talks with Minister Choe Hak-kun, he had asked North Korea to cooperate to ensure that the nuclear accord which North Korea had signed with the agency be sincerely implemented without any restraint and that inspections for verifying the truth of North Korea's initial report would continue.

The secretary general also said that the IAEA's inspection team had inspected seven of North Korea's reported nuclear facilities and two sites where nuclear materials are stored and visited two unreported sites that it selected at random. [end recording]

President No Stresses Public Officials' Discipline

SK0312123192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1127 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u stressed Thursday that discipline among public officials should be maintained firm as ever in the year-end and politically transitional period.

"Firm discipline should be maintained in the officialdom if only to fruitfully wind up the incumbent administration's achievements and to prepare for power transition," No said.

Speaking at a weekly policy review session, the president told the cabinet to see to it that people mark the year-end and new-year seasons in a frugal manner. "We should carry on our campaigns to help needy neighbors, reduce traffic accidents and work a little more. Public officials, in particular, should practice the three no's without any letdown", the three no's being no tenth day driving, no going to weddings during working hours, and no going to luxurious bars, the president said.

Students Throw Eggs at Kwangju American Center

SK0412033692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0308 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Kwangju, South Korea, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Some 300 Choson University students held a lightning demonstration in front of the American Center in Kwangju early Friday, throwing 200 eggs at the building in five minutes and then fleeing.

The collegians stampeded to the U.S. building at 7:50 A.M. from nearby residential area, strewing leaflets demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea.

There was no property damage reported.

The students ran away when combat troopers began streaming out of a nearby police substation.

A guard of 150 riot police around the American Center was recently withdrawn.

Kim Yong-sam To Break Ties With Sixth Republic

SK0412042692 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Dec 92 p 2

[Article from "Tidbits" column]

[Text] At his special Kwanhun club press interview and during his election campaign throughout the central districts, Democratic Liberal Party presidential candidate Kim Yong-sam attacked the Chongwadae [presidential residence], saying that "he will break off relations with the Sixth Republic," and that "the Sixth Republic is a watershed government." The Chongwadae presidential secretariat on 3 December expressed its dissatisfaction for what Kim Yong-sam said, indirectly pointing out that "there is something wrong with his remarks."

A Chongwadae official has tried to give less significance to candidate "Kim Yong-sam's policy of separating himself from the Sixth Republic," saying that "in stressing excessively his will to correct some wrongdoings committed by the Sixth Republic, candidate Kim Yong-sam gave the impression that he was attacking it."

The official said that "candidate Kim Yong-sam's remarks concerning treating President No Tae-u with humane respect, rather than with the application of law, is a wrong idea," and asked him "What does humane treatment mean?" He also pointed out that candidate Kim Yong-sam lacks skill in expressing his ideas on guaranteeing President No Tae-u's safety after No's retirement."

Chong Hae-chang, presidential secretary general, and Kim Chung-kwon, presidential senior secretary for political affairs, issued a report on 2 December to President No Tae-u about the contents of the remarks made by candidate Kim Yong-sam at the Kwanhun press interview. It was learned that President No Tae-u remained silent and did not give his impressions of the remarks.

Five Democratic Party Lawmakers Leave Party

SK0412092792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0725 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Choe Yong-kun, adviser to the Election Management Committee of the Democratic Party, announced Friday that he and four other former lawmakers were leaving the party.

The party had moved from the political center to the left when it joined hands with dissident groups, Choe said.

The four others were Pak Yong-nok, Kim Sung-mok, O Hong-suk and Cho Hui-chol.

The DP formed a "new policy alliance" with Chonguk-yonhap [National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification], an organization of dissident groups, early this week.

Hyundai Cancels Subscription to CHOSON ILBO

SK0412083792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0816 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—The Hyundai Group said Friday that none of its companies will advertise in the CHOSON ILBO, and that they will all cancel their subscriptions to the leading daily.

A senior Hyundai official said CHOSON had been one-sidedly criticizing the United People's Party [UPP] and the conglomerate in recent reports.

Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Group, is running for the presidency on the UPP ticket and the comglomerate is making every effort to ensure he emerges the winner.

The conservative newspaper is said to be favoring Kim Yong-sam for president.

The Hyundai official said that the decision to punish the CHOSON, an influential paper with the largest circulation in Korea, was made on Wednesday.

Ministry To Run Fair Election Inspection Teams

SK0412063892 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 4 Dec 92 p 22

[Text] On 3 December, the ROK Defense Ministry decided to establish and operate "fair election inspection teams" in the ministry, at the three armed services' headquarters, and other military units to ensure the military's political neutrality in the upcoming presidential election and fairly hold absentee ballots in the military units.

The Defense Ministry also decided to use during the presidential election campaigning period "petitions boxes" and installed "boxes for reporting election frauds" at restrooms and other places in platoons and other units. The ministry will also widely publicize this for all military units and soldiers.

Chon Yong-chin, director of the Personnel Bureau of the Defense Ministry, said on 3 December: "The Defense Ministry is of the opinion that through this presidential election, the military must win recognition for its political neutrality and fairness in the soldiers' absentee ballots." He also said that "fair election inspection teams" will carry out undercover inspections in all units, from divisions to platoons, to prevent anyone from making remarks or committing acts that may bring misunderstandings.

He also said that until the end of this year, the ministry will use "petitions boxes" installed even in very small units as "boxes for reporting election frauds" and, if reported cases are found to be true, the informers' identity will not be disclosed.

Meanwhile, the Defense Ministry announced that the ministry investigated the allegation that the ROK Air Force's 19th Fighter Wing (Chungwon County, North Chungchong Province) aired a program praising [Democratic Liberal Party] candidate Kim Yong-sam over the public-address system and asked the soldiers to listen to the program. The ministry also said that this had been found to be untrue, adding that the wing relayed a regular 12 o'clock news program.

Government Sets Goal of 7 Percent Economic Growth for 1993

SK0312031692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0248 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Pusan, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—Vice Economic Planning Minister Han Kap-su said Thursday that the government would seek 7 percent economic growth, regarded as the nation's potential growth rate next year.

Han told a policy seminar hosted by the Pusan Employers' Association that inflation would be kept below 4-5 percent in 1993, the same level as this year.

Growth of external trade would rise to 6 percent from 4 percent this year with the help of the recovery of the world economy, he said.

"The overall export environment will improve next year due to the likely conclusion of the multilateral Uruguay Round trade talks," Han said, adding that shipments of capital and semi-processed goods to China would further increase.

Han expected no drastic changes in U.S. trade policy toward Korea under the Clinton administration, but admitted that U.S. trade pressure was likely to be strengthened.

Turning to internal issues, he said that forced restraints on domestic spending would be lifted and that partial financial liberalization and Phase II deregulation of interest rates were likely in 1993.

He emphasized the limit of the government's efforts to energize the economy without reigniting inflation, saying that expected reforms of the administrative system would not be unfavorable to business activities.

Facility investment would be electrified next year as investment psychology would revive with the end of uncertainty accompanying the power transition in February, he said, predicting economic recovery.

Han expected exports to grow at a double-digit rate and construction investment to take an upturn thanks to the lifting of restrictions on commercial construction and quotas for housing construction next year.

He said that market interest rates would continue to drop in 1993 amid price stabilization and the money supply outpacing demand, and that wages and rents would keep a constant pace with no remarkable rise.

Han warned against "economic bubbles" that he said might be generated by a "growth-first" policy, saying that the nation should make efforts to nurture the growth potential factors among other things by improving technologies and manpower.

Daewoo, Uzbekistan To Launch Joint Venture Plant

SK0412061592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0547 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 4 (YONHAP)—Daewoo Electronics Co. and Uzbekistan have agreed to set up a second electric appliance factory in the latter half of next year, a Daewoo spokesman said Friday.

The second factory will be near the first, which has been turning out color televisions, audio cassettes players and vacuum cleaners since October in Tashkent, he said.

Daewoo and the Uzbek state consortium for radio, electronics, electrotechnics, and electric instrumentation will lay out 15 million U.S. dollars each for the plant.

The factory is expected to turn out 500,000 refrigerator compressors, 100,000 air conditioners, and 200,000 electric heaters for local sale and export to nearby countries, including Kazakhstan.

Government Sets Export Quota for Steel Reinforcements

SK0312041092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0310 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 3 (YONHAP)—The government will restrict exports of steel reinforcing bars next year because of a shortage on the domestic market, the trade and Industry Ministry said Thursday.

Supply was sufficient in September and exports hit 95,000 tons. But in October, massive demand from China pushed exports to 202,000 tons and caused a shortage in Korea. The five major manufacturers—Dongkuk Steel Mill Co., Hanbo Steel and General Construction Co., Inchon Iron and Steel Co., Kangwon Industrial Co. and Korea Iron and Steel Co.—met at the request of the ministry and agreed to cut exports to 1 million tons next year. Their target was 1.46 million tons.

The five firms will submit monthly plans for production and sales by Saturday and exchange views on adjusting the volume.

In January-October, exports of steel reinforcing bars hit 307,000 tons, up 158.1 percent from the same period last year, and are expected to reach 702,000 tons by the end of the year.

Total capacity of the manufacturers will be 7.24 million tons next year, up 17.5 percent, and exports will be between 1.07 million tons and 1.46 million tons, industry sources say.

Central Bank Rejects Ministry's Call for Interest Rate Cuts

SK0212042792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Dec 92 p 10

[By staff reporter Cho Chae-hyon]

[Text] In a surprise revolt to the Finance Ministry, the Bank of Korea [BOK] officially said, "no," yesterday to the ministry's call to cut regulated lending and deposit interest rates including rediscount rates.

BOK's Deputy Governor Yi U-yong said, "At this time, the BOK has no intention of cutting the rediscount rates or the lending and deposit rates."

"If we cut the rates, it will give the public an impression that the government has moved away from its stability-first policy."

This will bring in another vicious circle of real estate price spiralling and excess fund demands, spoiling the government's sustained efforts to cool down the overheated economy, he said.

BOK Governor Cho Sun yesterday met Finance Minister Yi Yong-man and conveyed the ROK's stance to the minister.

The central bank also announced its official stance against the cuts in rediscount rates in a press conference yesterday.

Pak Chae-chun, chief of the research department, told reporters the nation's economy is not so bad although its third-quarter growth sank to its lowest level in 11 years, given the facts that the current account deficits are narrowing and consumer prices show signs of stabilizing.

The BOK said the retrenchment policy is bearing fruit and predicted that the current account deficit will drop to 4 billion dollars for this year from 8.7 billion dollars last year and consumer prices will grow only 4.5 percent for this year compared with the 9.6 percent last year.

"The current economic slowdown should be regarded as a transitional trend that the domestic economy should go through to become a better and consolidated economy in the future," it said.

"Instead of an artificial cut in interest rates," it added "the financial market needs the early implementation of the second-stage of the interest rate deregulation program. The cuts in rediscount rates will only deter the implementation of interest rate liberalization."

Ryu Si-yol, a BOK assistant governor, also said, "The BOK should support the Finance Ministry's policy in principle, but in case it is viewed as something undesirable for the economy, the central bank cannot accept it."

Ryu also was pessimistic about the effects of the cut for boosting the economy. "If we (BOK) cut the rediscount rates by 0.5 or 1 percentage points in the name of boosting the economy, that means we deceive people because the cuts will be of little help for the enterprises to regain confidence in expanding investment."

Out of a total of 96 trillion-won loans by the BOK to banks, only about 12 trillion won or 12.7 percent is subject to the central bank's rediscount, which in return will have little effect on the banks' lending rates to companies.

The BOK has said that unlike the rediscount policy in Western countries, the BOK's cuts in rediscount rates do not necessarily result in banks' lowering their lending rates to companies because of a twisted financial market mechanism.

The BOK rarely balks officially at the ministry's call to lower interest rates.

Another BOK official said that the BOK cannot bow to the ministry's pressure if it is a matter of the ministry saving face.

Asked about the case of the BOK's accommodation of the ministry's call to extend special loans to the three Seoul-based investment trust companies early this year, the official said the BOK extended the loans to them on the basis of its own decision not because of the ministry's pressure.

"At that time, the central bank accepted the ministry's demands not because the BOK lost in the 'power game' with the ministry but because the BOK viewed the extension of loans as a necessary measure for the nation's economy," he said.

He also added that even after the presidential election, the BOK will pursue the stability-oriented policy and will not cut the rediscount rates.

The BOK official said that without an expansion of the money supply and cuts in the lending and deposit rates of banks, the rediscount cut is meaningless in terms of stimulating the economy.

Thus the most direct and effective measures to stimulate the economy are, instead of cutting the rediscount rates, to expand the money supply and lower lending rates to enterprises, they said.

But that will again cause an excessive credit demand by companies and in turn raise the interest rates, ruining the government's stabilization-oriented policy, they added.

The BOK's adamant stance against the economy-boosting measures are expected to add fuel to the disputes as to what the real status of the current economy is.

Health Ministry Reports AIDS Cases in 1992

SK3011101992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0913 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 30 (YONHAP)—Sixty-six Koreans have been affected by AIDS virus so far this year, according to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs Monday.

Of the total, 37 suffered the infection through sexual contacts with fellow Koreans and 23 through contacts abroad. This means that those infected through contacts with Koreans outpaced those affected abroad for the first time since 1985 when AIDS victims were first reported in Korea.

Of the six remainders, five were infected through blood transfusion and another through sexual contact with a foreigner in the country.

Last year, 16 were infected through contacts with Koreans and 18 abroad, and in 1990 25 with Koreans and 27 abroad.

• Kim Yong-sam's 'New Economy' Plan Analyzed

922C0250A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 28 Aug 92 p 3

[By reporter Yun Kyong-ho: "DLP President Kim Yong-sam's 'New Economy' Plan: It Puts Forth Three Principles—Self-Regulation, Coherence and Transparency"]

[Text] The economic policy concept advanced by Kim Yong-sam, president of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], in his inaugural speech as can be summed up in a single catch phrase—realization of a "new economy" as he called it.

First, noting that "the most pressing task confronting us today is to revitalize the economy," Kim declared in the speech, titled "For an Era of Change": "I will do everything in my power to stimulate the sluggish economy and reinvigorate it into one full of vitality."

Outlining his economic policy, he stated that based on strong leadership, he will lead the entire nation to voluntarily participate in achieving "new economic developments" and actively display their creative power in it and, by doing so, develop a "new economy" with great growth potential, competitive on its own in world markets and having solid foundations guaranteeing our people comfortable living conditions.

The New Economy theory is a summation of Kim Yong-sam's economic view as DLP presidential candidate. Its main purpose can be said to lie in highlighting his differences with economic policies of the present and past governments.

Viewed in this light, Kim's New Economy is a criticism of the economic policies of the Fifth and Sixth republics.

In other words, until the end of the Fifth Republic era, the economy, according to him, had depended on the planning, directives and uniform control by the government for developments.

In his view, the economy in the Sixth Republic has rather suffered setbacks because of an outpouring of individual demands and the collective expression of egoism in the course of democratization.

Further, the "New Economy" doctrine proceeds from a critical evaluation of the state of our economy today.

Kim holds that internally, our economy lost the advantage of cheap labor while going through democratization and, in addition, the opening-up of domestic markets is in progress at a rapid pace now, while outwardly it faces mounting challenges from the trends of the world economy turning into blocs and of technological protectionism that are gaining momentum.

Considering these circumstances, he argues, we should seek new economic developments now by a new formula different from the past ones.

Kim vowed to lead the people through his strong leadership to their voluntary participation and active display of ingenuity in the drive for such new economic developments.

In this connection, he cited self-regulation, coherence and transparency as the three principles of his new economic policy.

The principle of self-regulation reflects the theory of small-government advocating reduction of regulatory measures and interferences to minimum levels.

In other words, he will see that decision-making authority on economic management will as much as possible be transferred from the government to the private sector, from the central government to local governments, and from the upper levels to the lower to ensure the maximum degree of self-regulation. At the same time, he will do away with outdated practices and procedures for deregulation.

Secondly, he commits himself to maintaining policy coherence to make it possible for individual citizens to make plans for their future with a sense of security and to ensure that businesses can make investments with predictability.

The third point is that decision-making process must be clean and transparent. With it, he promises to eliminate any possible links of collusion between politics and economics and see to it that policy decisions are made through open procedures.

Kim Yong-sam outlined the substance of the "New Economy" policy dedicated to these principles as follows:

First of all, he will build an economy with greater growth potential and not bound by such unreasonable growth rates as in the past.

In this connection, he vowed to stabilize the price increase rate at a 3% level, turn the international balance of payments in our favor, and at the same time achieve an average 7% to 8% annual growth and bring up the per-capita national income to $15,000, beginning in 1994.

Next, he will develop an economy that is competitive on its own in world markets. We must compete in the world markets with technology we have developed and with our own trade marks, he says, and to that end, he will increase investments in the educational programs and the science-technology programs to 5% of the GNP, respectively.

Finally, Kim put forth the goal of building an economy with solid foundations for the people's livelihood. He pledged himself to stabilizing prices, establishing comfortable living environment and basic welfare systems and to realizing fairness in distribution, so as to guarantee a worthy life for the people striving for it.

Pak Chae-yun, special assistant on economic affairs, portrayed Kim's "New Economy" plan as a "presentation of his vision and expression of his will about the economy in general."

Therefore, Pak explains, Kim will come up with further specific policies either at a press conference he is reportedly planning for early September or in the campaign pledges being worked on by the DLP. At a time when economic issues are regarded as Kim Yong-sam's "Achilles' heel" in the presidential race, the "New Economy" doctrine is short on specifics and long on generalities, critics point out.

With a mere conceptual drawing alone can no economic policy achieve the desired result. It is therefore necessary to identify structural vulnerabilities inherent in our economy and prepare countermeasures. The Kim Yong-sam plan falls short in this respect, analysts noted.

In other words, although Kim stresses his commitment to creating conditions in which the logic of economics—the logic centering on businesses as the prime mover of the economy—can prevail, it is uncertain how far his political career to date can back it up.

Especially, in connection with his effort to enhance his image as a reformist, critics accuse Kim Yong-sam of deviating from the line of installing the mandatory-use-of-real-names-in-financial-transactions system and of translating the land-as-public-estate concept into reality despite the fact that these reforms are considered indispensable to the pursuit of economic fairness. It certainly reflects the limitations on his part showing his inability to free himself radically from the interests of the vested-rights groups, they insist.

* President No's Future Actions Previewed

932C0007A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 23 Sep 92 p 5

[By columnist Yu Sung-sam: "President No's Next Card"]

[Text] There were stories comparing the personal characteristics of President No Tae-u and former president Chon Tu-hwan. Back in the Korean Military Academy (KMA) days, while Chon was sweating playing football in the playground, No was ironing his uniforms in the dormitory. In carrying out military exercises, Chon preferred a frontal attack of enemy's line, while No preferred ambush and surprise attacks. Although these may be made-up stories, there are some elements of truth.

In retrospect, No placed emphasis on "appearance" in politics and has shown a skillful style in making surprise attacks. The fact that No enjoyed foreign trips and had many excellent speakers and writers under him also reflect his style of considering appearance important. The announcement of democratization made on 29 June, the merge of three political parties to form the current ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), and the surprise announcement on 18 September this year that he will withdraw from the ruling party membership, show his skillful style of making surprise attacks. The people have been disappointed in the lack of follow-up actions to support his appearance and words.

Most of his speeches and addresses are too democratic for anyone to believe that he himself actually wrote them. They are also progressive, active, and sometimes even firm. The people's evaluation of him is represented by "water" or "indecisiveness", however. The people's perception of him is well reflected in the opinion polls that the Information Ministry recently conducted. 81.5 percent indicated that the 18 November announcement of establishing a neutral cabinet to oversee the upcoming presidential election was a good decision; 74.9 percent indicated that his resignation from the honorary chairmanship of the ruling DLP and withdrawal from the DLP party membership were desirable.

On the other hand, only 56.8 percent indicated that his decision will contribute to the fair presidential election; and only 54.2 percent indicated that his decision will contribute to resolving the current political problems. That means most of the people support his decision but are not quite sure of the outcome of his decision. This reflects the people's mistrust in his ability to carry out his promises and furthermore disbelief in the pureness of his decisions.

As most of the people correctly understand, the establishment of a neutral cabinet and giving up his party membership do not necessarily guarantee a neutral position of the government and a fair election. Although the establishment of a neutral cabinet might be necessary, changing the faces of the cabinet members does not necessarily contribute to the achievement of his goal.

The disclosure by the Yonki County chief of the corrupt election in the last general election, that embarrassed the government, indicates that corrupt elections through power and money have been systematically rooted for a long period of time. Because of the prevalent corrupt environment, some government officials directly involved in the corrupt election in the Yonki County even complained that they did not commit any wrongdoing. The subordinates bowed down to him in two lines when the governor of the Chungchong Province, where the Yonki County belongs to, was heading for the court for his alleged involvement in the corrupt election. The prosecutors boldly announced their investigation of such shameful incidents.

How can a minor reshuffle of cabinet members and the resignation from the party membership correct such a prevalent atmosphere where moral and sense of justice are lacking? Even if President No and the newly-created cabinet maintain their neutrality as he promised, politically-oriented and egoistic government officials who have a burning desire to succeed will compete to be more loyal to the one who has power.

No himself expressed his decision as an "adventure". Outsiders are also considering his decision an adventure. It is an adventure not only in the sense that it will cause either political advancement or political chaos but also in the sense of his future as a private citizen after retiring from the presidency. In the event that his current decision will prove to be another multi-purpose tactic, it will have the same effect as dashing into the fire with a gasoline tank. Even if his intention is honest and pure, he is subject to harsh criticisms if the results are different from what is anticipated, whatever the reason.

In order for his current decision to result in an advancement of politics, bold measures should be followed, in addition to the establishment of a neutral cabinet in the true sense. Even if he abandons the party membership and a neutral cabinet is established, he still is the president. If this is the case, various administrative measures should follow in order to ensure the government officials' political neutrality. If necessary, he should not hesitate to fire corrupt officials regardless of their position. It is most urgent and important to guarantee the neutrality of power organizations such as information and investigative organizations that are the least democratized in our nation. In addition, the government should sever its relations with pro-government organizations that it has been maintaining as a means of holding onto its power. There should not be any temporary administrative measures and new policies aimed just at getting more votes.

Despite short five months of his remaining presidency, all of these measures can be taken if he is determined to do so. The established groups will persistently urge the president to compromise with reality. Compromise might appear to be neutral. For the sake of improved politics and his own future, No should firmly reject such suggestions and carry out the necessary bold reform measures.

The only way left is a frontal attack, that his friend Chon preferred.

• Why Is CIA Director Gates Coming to Korea?

932C0042A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 29 Oct 92 pp 28-30

[By reporter Sin Chong-nok: "Why CIA Director Gates Coming to Korea? Visit at Politically Sensitive Time Prompts Concerns over Suspected Link to Presidential Election"]

[Text] The scheduled visit to Seoul of the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Robert Gates, is looming as a matter of major concern not only for political quarters but the public in general as well. Each political faction, including the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], the Democratic Party [DP] and the Unification National Party, while preoccupied with their busy political schedules, has its antennas stretched out for information on the visit.

The visit by the 15th CIA director may perhaps carry no special political significance. But the observation prevailing in political quarters is that considering the presidential election two months away and the CIA's influence on Korean politics in the past, there is something about the visit that could hardly be simply overlooked.

The reason the scheduled Gates visit has aroused even greater concern was the fact that it was disclosed in advance. Normally, an overseas visit by a CIA director is treated as a top secret. It has never been made public in advance and seldom would it be unveiled after the fact either.

It was so with the past visits to Korea by CIA directors. In the 1984 summer and again in spring next year, William Casey, the 13th director, entered Seoul through the Osan Air Base and met with then-Prime Minister No Sin-yong and other leading figures. As one of the exceptional cases, the facts were disclosed in early 1986.

The coming Gates visit was unveiled not by an official Korean or U.S. announcement. There has been no official announcement on it through any channels at all. It was leaked by an agency involved in arranging the visit, then reporters covering the agency confirmed and reported it.

Political concerns are focused on the Gates visit itself. Their interests then lie in his itinerary and purpose in Korea. According to what has been confirmed so far, Gates is visiting Seoul for three days beginning 27 October at the invitation of Chongwadae and the Agency for National Security Planning [ANSP] to discuss developments in the domestic situation and the North Korean nuclear issue with President No Tae-u, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and ANSP Director Yi Hyon-u. These are about all that are known at the moment. The rest of specifics of the itinerary has not yet been confirmed.

As for the purpose of his visit, it is necessary to first explain the "field trip" as an established CIA practice.

The field trip is a practice in which the U.S. government sends principal members of the CIA staff to their respective regions once a year for on-site reorientation. Gates is one of them who has been touring major countries annually. His coming visit to Korea is, ostensibly, a field trip. It is part of his itinerary of a tour of Russia, Northeast Asia and East Europe.

In connection with the field trip practice, it should also be noted that American politicians have traditionally taken the attitude that they "cannot understand" the Korean political culture. According to diplomatic sources, they find recent political changes in Korea—ranging from the three-party merger of the ruling and two opposition parties to the imminent presidential election that increasingly had appeared to be a three-way race until the recent sudden tumult sparked by party defectors and the subsequent moves for a new political party made the prospects cloudy—hardly understandable to their political sense.

It is a fact that U.S. intelligence agencies in Korea, including the U.S. embassy and the CIA branch office, are persistently engaged in intelligence-gathering activities. It is nothing more than their routine operations, however.

According to observations, the main purpose of the Gates "field trip" is to attach realism to such routine intelligence. In other words, it is for the top intelligence official to personally inspect and make judgement on the site.

Chongwadae and American Embassy officials cite this point, saying that Gates is making the visit just for routine purposes.

But the question is its timing—that is, why he is he coming at this time when the political situation here is chaotic over the coming presidential election.

Needless to say, it is not an impromptu visit. A visit to Korea by an official as high as CIA director is usually decided at least three months in advance. Whatever the true intents of the two governments, it is a fact that the Gates visit has become one of the utmost concerns of political quarters.

Other than the so-called field trip, we can think of two things in connection with Gates' purpose.

The first is the stalemated simultaneous nuclear inspection issue between North and South Korea. Currently, negotiations are deadlocked with no concessions in sight as the South demands simultaneous inspection and the North sees it as totally unacceptable. Some in political quarters view the Gates visit as aimed at discussion with the South Korean government to prepare a breakthrough. There are also stories that there could be some links between Professor (Skallapino), who stopped by Seoul en route from North Korea in early October, and the Gates visit.

But a considerably large number of people are of the opinion negative to such analyses. They maintain that judging from the past practices, it is unlikely that the U.S. Administration will bring itself into discussion with the No Tae-u government which is down to the last few months of its term on such matters of major concern.

The other observation is that the Gates visit could have something to do with the political scenes in this country. This is the very point with which our politicians are concerned most; DLP and DP sources are even expressing fears that Gates' intent could perhaps be to "intervene" on behalf of a certain presidential candidate.

U.S. embassy officials are equally nervous about the possibility of the visit prompting unnecessary speculations. It is for that reason that while keeping his visit officially confidential in accordance with the established practice, they have been emphasizing repeatedly that Gates has no plan to meet any Korean politician.

Gates is said to be a typical intelligence bureaucrat with an outstanding organizing ability and a meticulous manager of day-to-day operations, rather than a James Bond-type person. According to ratings by U.S. Administration officials and Congressional leaders, he is a nonpartisan intelligence specialist with keen analyzing capabilities.

Gates was born in Wichita, Kansas, in 1943. He majored in USSR history in Georgetown University, receiving a Ph.D.; joined the CIA in 1966 and, at the young age of 38, was promoted at a bound to deputy director for intelligence. He rose to the post of 15th director in November 1991.

But Gates is better known for the 1986 "Iran-Contra" scandal, which was caused by conservatives in the U.S. intelligence organization by selling arms to Iran and using the proceeds from the sales to aid the Contras, the anticommunist guerrilla organization in Nicaragua. The scandal seriously damaged the CIA's reputation. As a result, Gates, who was deputy director at the time of the incident, met strong opposition from the Congress when named to be CIA director by Reagan in 1987. Reagan eventually withdrew the nomination.

Depending on the outcome of the U.S. presidential election in early November, Gates is to share his fortune with Bush. If Bush loses, he will have to move out, too.

It is not too much to say that a director of the U.S. CIA has the world's intelligence in his hands. He controls 12 intelligence-related agencies, including the National Security Agency (NSA), which conducts electronic eavesdropping operations, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) overseeing military intelligence organizations under the Department of Defense, as well as the CIA. The annual CIA budget is estimated at more than $30 billion.

The CIA has been the subject of numerous compliments and criticisms, ranging from "the watchdog" protecting the West to "the hotbed that mass-produces dirty work." The fact that the top leader of an agency like that is coming to Seoul at this politically sensitive time is by itself enough to attract people's attention.

Burma

Reinforcements Reportedly Sent To Defend Hill 491

BK0412025592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 92 p 6

[Text] Rangoon has sent reinforcements to strengthen the Southern Military Command force opposite Tha Sae District of Chumphon Province following news reports that Thailand may use force to recapture Hill 491.

According to a Burmese military radio message monitored yesterday by intelligence sources, soldiers in four military boats have been despatched from Rangoon to a coastal town some 40 kilometres from Tha Sae District.

Several infantry battalions, also from the Rangoon Command, arrived at the area opposite Hill 491 on Wednesday night.

The sources are checking the types of the boats and the names of the newly-arrived army battalions, they said.

Karen guerrilla sources said that the Burmese reinforcements had brought with them hundreds of porters which they rounded up from villages near the border.

The Burmese military reinforced two battalions under the Second Tactical Command, headed by Special Col Tin Maung Kyi, at the area near Hill 491 last week.

Hill 491 has been occupied by a Burmese battalion under the command of Lt-Col Ko Ko Kyaw since February, when it captured the strategic site from Karen guerrilla fighters.

According to the sources, Burmese troops have taken over a jungle area opposite Hill 491.

The reinforcements were ordered after news reports that the Thai military would try to retake the hill from the Burmese if Bangkok fails to persuade Rangoon to withdraw its troops from the disputed hill.

The Burmese stopped flying their flag on the hill after the border talks in Chiang Mai failed last month.

At present, Burmese troops occupy two strategic sites in Thailand, one at the Hill 491 and the second at Ban Hin Kong the border area in E-Tong village of Thong Pha Phum District, Kanchanaburi Province.

Karen Rebels Deny Members Surrender to SLORC

BK0412082692 (Clandestine) Democratic Voice of Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The KNU, Karen National Union, has issued a statement on 24 November on the cooperation of Bo Letwe, alias Naw Pho Kay, with the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council].

Naw Pho Kay and his 61 followers have cooperated with the SLORC through Thanbyuzayat on 21 November. On this matter, the SLORC, the military clique, has alleged in its newspapers that Bo Letwe, alias Naw Pho Kay, and 61 other members of the KNU have surrendered and yielded to the SLORC.

Actually, Bo Letwe, alias Naw Pho Kay, and his followers were not members of the KNU. Not only was this group a gang of bandits, it was also against the KNU's revolution and the local people. Bo Letwe's bandit gang was one of the gangs which was formed as a result of the SLORC policies which foster poverty, black market trading, and lootings. This bandit gang grew up to 40 armed members, in the SLORC era, and caused troubles for the local Mon and Karen populace in Thanbyuzayat Township. It was also a bandit gang that opposed the Mon and Karen revolutions. Although the existence of this gang was a drawback for the revolution and the public, it was very beneficial for the SLORC. While the SLORC, the military clique, was staging arduous offensives against the Mon and Karen revolutions as well as the Mon and Karen populace in Thanbyuzayat, it never attacked the Naw Pho Kay's bandit gang. During this year's monsoon, while the KNU was fighting back the SLORC's offensives, it also attacked the Naw Pho Kay bandit gang which was against the revolution and the public. When Naw Pho Kay's bandit gang could not resist the KNU's attacks it decided to cooperate with the SLORC.

Therefore, the cooperation of the Naw Pho Kay bandit gang with the SLORC does not constitute the surrender of the members of the KNU to the SLORC.

Rangoon Signs Nonproliferation Treaty

BK0412014292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; dated 3 December]

[Text] The Government of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] has been actively contributing to the UN's efforts in the quest for international peace and security, particularly in the field of arms reduction and disarmament with the ultimate objective of genuine and complete disarmament.

As a founding member of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Myanmar has also been constructively engaged in ongoing disarmament negotiations. It firmly believes that nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, cessation of the nuclear arms race, and nuclear disarmament are vital for the prevention of the danger of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, it also believes that peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology should be applicable to every nation for the benefit of all mankind under an impartial and effective international control.

In accordance with the conviction stated above and with the view to enhancing its firm commitment to the international peace and security, the Government of the Union of Myanmar has decided to accede to the Treaty on Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The instrument of the accession to the said treaty has been deposited in Washington D.C. on 2 December with the United States Department of State, which is one of two depositories of the treaty.

Thus, Myanmar becomes the 154th state to accede to the Treaty of the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Aung San Suu Kyi's Husband Seeks Japan's Help

OW0312090992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 3 KYODO—Japan has received a letter from the husband of detained Myanmar [Burma] dissident leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi asking for help in ensuring her health, a senior Foreign Ministry source said Thursday.

Ministry sources said Japanese diplomats in London subsequently telephoned the husband, Michael Aris, to explain Japan's efforts to convince the Myanmar military regime to hasten the nation's return to democracy.

Aris said last Monday that Aung San Suu Kyi's life is in danger after she started refusing any funds or favors, including food, to protest her prolonged house arrest.

The source lauded Suu Kyi for her "greatness" in refusing the regime's offer to give her freedom as long as she leaves the country.

Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won elections in 1991 but were never allowed to take power, has been under house arrest for three years.

The source said Aris and Aung San Suu Kyi's children have apparently been given permission to visit Myanmar from Britain to see her over the Christmas holidays.

Official Says Aung San Suu Kyi 'In Good Health'

BK0412080592 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1430 GMT 3 Dec 92

[From the "World News" program]

[Text] U Aye, a senior official from Burma's Foreign Ministry, has said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained opposition leader, is in good health. However, her husband, Dr. Michael Aris, on Monday expressed his grave concern over the condition of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Abel Receives Visiting Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister

BK0212144492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Mr. Souban Salitthilat, Laotian deputy foreign minister, who is currently in Yangon [Rangoon] attending the 34th Colombo Plan Consultative Committee meeting, called on Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance, at the Foreign Investment Commission Office at the corner of Merchant and Shwebontha Roads today.

Cordial and frank discussions were held on matters relating to bilateral economic and regional cooperation.

Brig. Gen. Win Tin, deputy minister for planning and finance, and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Planning and Finance also attended the meeting.

Receives Malaysian Delegation

BK0212145692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Malaysian Justice Minister Mr. Syed Hamid Albar, who is currently in Yangon [Rangoon] attending the 34th Colombo Plan Consultative Committee meeting and accompanied by Malaysian Ambassador Mr. John Tenewi Nuek and other delegation members, called on Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance, at the Inya Lake Hotel at 1030 today.

At the meeting, cordial and frank discussions were held on matters relating to bilateral economic and regional cooperation.

Brig. Gen. Win Tin, deputy minister for planning and finance, and responsible personnel from the Ministry of Planning and Finance also attended the meeting.

Receives Foreign Correspondents

BK0312144792 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] BBC correspondent Mr. (Jonathan Burtoll) and ASIAN WALL STREET JOURNAL editor Mr. Barry Wain, who are currently visiting Yangon [Rangoon], called on Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance, at the Foreign Investment Commission Office today afternoon.

At the meeting, the minister gave explanations to questions on economic reform programs in Myanmar [Burma].

It has been learned that responsible personnel from the ministry of planning and finance were also present at the meeting.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Minister Discusses Number of HIV Carriers

BK0312135392 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 30 Nov 92 p 6

[Excerpts] Kuala Lumpur, Sunday—The number of HIV carriers in the country is expected to reach 32,000 by 1995, Health Minister Datuk Lee Kim Sai said.

He was worried that it would be difficult to check the number of AIDS and HIV cases without education and information to warn the public about the AIDS danger.

He said that a survey by the ministry showed that there had been 4,347 HIV carriers in the country as of last October and the number would increase at a faster rate if no serious attention was paid to the issue. [passage omitted]

He said that the ministry had identified 67 AIDS patients in the country, 42 of whom had died. [passage omitted]

Joint Palm Oil Refinery To Be Set Up With China

BK3011153592 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] China will invest 40-million ringgit in a joint venture with Malaysian enterpreneurs to set up a crude palm oil refinery in Guangdong Province. The project is part of China's effort to expand its market in Asia. Director of External Trade Office for the Guangdong Province, (Huang Kun), said the refinery will be established on a seven-hectare site. With the plant, China will emerge as a supplier of crude palm oil in Asia besides meeting the increasing demand of its domestic market.

He told newsmen this after attending a luncheon hosted by Penang state's Chief Minister, Dr. Koh Tsu Koon, on the island state.

Huang, who is leading a goodwill and economic mission from China, is on a week-long visit to Malaysia.

Singapore

Goh Resigns as MP, To Contest By-Elections 19 Dec

BK0312144792 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] A by-election will be held on the 19th of this month for the Marine Parade GRC [Group Representation Constituency]. Nomination of candidates will be held on the 9th December. The writ of the by-election will be issued by the president.

This is announced in a statement from the Prime Minister's Office [POM]. Mr. Goh Chok Tong, together with Mr. Matthias Yao, Mr. Lim Chee Onn, and Othman Haron Eusofe resigned as Members of Parliament of the Marine Parade GRC yesterday.

Mr. Goh and two PAP [People's Action Party] candidates will contest the by-election. A POM statement says although Mr. Goh has resigned as the member of parliament, he continues to hold the office of prime minister. The Attorney General has advised that the constitution does not require him to resign as prime minister to contest the by-election. However, if Mr. Goh is not reelected, he will immediately tender his resignation as prime minister. Similarly, Mr. Matthias Yao remains Parliamentary Secretary and will resign if he is not reelected.

The nomination center will be at Kallang School evening session.

The Marine Parade GRC has been designated as a constituency where by one of the candidates belongs to the Malay community. His application must be [words indistinct] not later than two days before the day of nomination. For all candidates, their applications must be submitted to the Elections Department by 2 p.m. on Monday, the 7th of December. Deposit for each candidate is 6,000 [Singapore] dollars. Mr. Lim Siam Kim of the Ministry of Information and the Arts is the returning officer. Voting is compulsory.

Workers Party To Run

BK0312132492 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1100 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Workers Party will contest the by-election to be held at the Marine Parade GRC [Group Representation Constituency] on the 19th of this month. The party secretary general, Mr. J.B. Jeyaretnam, announced this today. But he would not say if he would be one of the candidates. Mr. Jeyaretnam said the candidate would be known on nomination day.

On working together with other opposition parties, Mr. Jeyaretnam welcomed the idea to avoid a three-cornered fight. Mr. Jeyaretnam, however, questioned the reasons for the by-election. He also questioned whether the prime minister should have stepped down since he had resigned as a member of parliament. But he said he respected the attorney general's confirmation that it is constitutional.

Cambodia

More Reports on Kidnapping of UNTAC Personnel

Phnom Penh Urges Drastic Action

BK0412122392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Station commentary: "Drastic Action Must Be Taken Against the Khmer Rouge"]

[Text] On 2 December, two days after the UN Security Council decided to impose economic sanctions on the Khmer Rouge, six United Nations peacekeeping officers on patrol aboard a boat along Stoeng Sen River in Kompong Thom Province were kidnapped by the Khmer Rouge.

This was not the first blatant act committed by the Khmer Rouge against the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC.

People remember well that recently, refusing to implement the agreement, the Khmer Rouge blocked His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi from his inspection mission in Pailin region and held up UNTAC forces in a district in Kompong Cham Province.

Worse still, on 26 November, the Khmer Rouge shot at United Nations planes on (?21) occasions and ambushed an UNTAC election registration team [words indistinct].

The most important point is that the kidnapping of six United Nations peacekeepers—three British, two Malaysians, and a New Zealander—along Stoeng Sen River constitutes a negative response of the Khmer Rouge to the UN Security Council's decision to impose economic sanctions.

It is known to all that in October when the UN Security Council demanded a reply by 15 November whether or not they would implement the Paris agreement, the Khmer Rouge [words indistinct] along Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom provincial border.

Again this time, only two days after the UN Security Council announced its resolution on economic sanctions, the Khmer Rouge captured six UNTAC officers and planted mines aimed at blowing up an UNTAC car. Five UNTAC officers were injured in the explosion.

These brutal acts clearly show that the Khmer Rouge do not care in the least about the resolutions of the UN Security Council or the international community. They respect no one but Pol Pot, whose code name is K-87. On 9 and 10 November, Pol Pot, or K-87, called a meeting of the Khmer Rouge's division and regiment commanders and told them to instruct their units to vigorously carry out the dry-season offensive attacking both UNTAC forces and State of Cambodia [SOC] faction's People's Armed Forces [CPAF]. Pol Pot instructed all division commanders to actively lead their forces on all fronts and vigorously intensify gunfire everywhere in this 1992-93 dry season.

During his recent visit to Kompong Som, Kampot, and Takeo towns, H.E. Yasushi Akashi expressed concern about the Khmer Rouge's deployment of more troops along the frontline.

Due to these Khmer Rouge activities, our people have been very worried about the fate of the peace agreement, particularly their security during the election which, according to the international community, will be held not later than May next year.

During the past 13 years, our people could survive, and restore and develop the country thanks to the firm defense provided by the CPAF. But to sincerely implement the agreement, the CPAF have mobilized in cantonments and, with the permission of UNTAC, some units have temporarily demobilized and returned to civilian life.

Despite the SOC's respect for, and compliance with, the second phase of the cease-fire, its military restraint, and its practice of political rights and freedoms, the people have continued to suffer losses in terms of life and property, caused by continuous violations on the part of Democratic Kampuchea [DK].

Recently, Khmer Rouge forces (?attacked) fishing centers around Tonle Sap Lake and in some other areas in Kandal, Prey Veng, and Kompong Cham Provinces which are all under the SOC's control. Similar activities by the Khmer Rouge were also carried out in the mangrove forests, creating insecurity and difficulties for workers there.

These activities of the DK faction have put the SOC's defensive stand in jeopardy. The DK faction has always exploited the SOC's goodwill and sincerity toward the agreement, thus seriously affecting the United Nations peace plan—an unprecedentedly expensive peace mission.

For this reason, to ensure the Cambodian people's safety and security in the election to be held next year, (?drastic action must be taken against) the Khmer Rouge who owe a blood debt to millions of Cambodians and [words indistinct].

NADK Spokesman Justifies Capture

BK0412013692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Dec 92

["Communique by the Spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea on the Capture of Six UNTAC Military Personnel Who Have Infiltrated and Spied Along the Stoeng Sen River in Kompong Thom Province"—read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] stationed along the Stoeng Sen River in Kompong Thom Province detained six UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel, including Britons and New Zealanders, on 1 December 1992. The six-member UNTAC team was captured and detained during a clash between the NADK and Vietnamese and Phnom Penh faction troops, who have attacked and massacred the Cambodian people in the area.

The reason the NADK captured and detained the six UNTAC staff members was that those UNTAC personnel had infiltrated, spied, taken photos, and located the coordinates on a map so as to assist Vietnam and the Phnom Penh faction in attacking the NADK along the Stoeng Sen River and in Kompong Thom Province.

In the past, UNTAC forces have also infiltrated and spied in the zones controlled by Democratic Kampuchea [DK]. And we have, one or two times, warned against entering the DK regions without prior permission.

2. We have already advised our forces in the area to release the six UNTAC troops.

3. The national opinion has been fully well aware of the matter. However, we would like to inform international opinion that UNTAC, which has infiltrated and spied in the DK-controlled regions, has colluded with the Vietnamese and their puppets militarily, diplomatically, economically, and in propaganda to put the Cambodian nation and people to death, allowing the Vietnamese aggressors to continue their occupation of Cambodia.

4. The NADK has warned that UNTAC forces must not join forces with the Vietnamese and their puppets to attack the DK forces and that it must verify and control the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

5. The NADK vehemently demands that UNTAC respect and abide by every term of the Paris accord, in particular verify and control the pullout of all manner of the Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia. UNTAC must not join hands with the Vietnamese and their puppets to attack the DK forces, for this is in complete opposition to the Paris accord and also constitutes the murder of the Cambodian nation and people. In any case, this does not signify that UNTAC comes to seek peace for Cambodia. The NADK and the Cambodian people, therefore, oppose the action at all costs.

[Dated] 3 December 1992.

[Signed] The NADK Spokesman.

Six UN Peacekeepers Released

BK0412040292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0353 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Kompong Thom, Cambodia, Dec 4 (AFP)—Six U.N. peacekeepers being held hostage by Khmer Rouge guerrillas in central Cambodia for four days were released Friday, a senior U.N. official here said.

The captives—three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander—were handed over to an Indonesian peacekeeping team at 10:30 A.M. and were making their way by boat to this provincial capital, according to Lieutenant Colonel Rybzard.

"Their release was unconditional," an AFP photographer on the scene quoted the Indonesian sector commander as saying. The group was to reach Kompong Thom by early afternoon, he said.

KR Warns Against Zone Penetration

BK0412124492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Dec 4 (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge [KR] said Friday they had warned U.N. peacekeepers not to trespass in their zones again, indicating that the radical faction would capture more U.N. peacekeepers who penetrated their zones.

"We told them already not to do it again," Khmer Rouge official Mak Ben told AFP.

"The Phnom Penh forces are attacking us every day" in the Stoeng Sen River area, where six U.N. peacekeepers were held hostage by the guerrilla faction, he said.

"During these attacks, UNTAC got in to deep areas of our control through different checkpoints to spy for the Phnom Penh forces," he said. "We warned them not to cross our checkpoints, but they didn't listen to our soldiers" who fired warning shots.

"That is why they were arrested," Mak Ben said. "We just stopped them because we don't want them to go into (our) areas to spy and we don't want them to give information to the Phnom Penh forces to fight against us."

KR Had 'Contact' With High Command

BK0412130092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1242 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 4 (AFP)—The local Khmer Rouge [KR] commander who kept six U.N. peacekeepers hostage for four days had constant radio contact with his high command and did not seem to have acted independently, freed members of the group said Friday.

"Initially it was a local decision" to capture the six blue berets, said their senior officer, British Lieutenant Colonel Mark Walton.

The six arrived here after being freed Friday morning from a Khmer Rouge village in central Cambodia.

"But certainly after that (the local commander) was in contact with a higher authority," Walton said, explaining that the commander would disappear for several hours saying he was contacting his superiors.

Indonesia

Trade Minister Meets French Counterpart 4 Dec

BK0412065692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Indonesia has urged France to exert greater efforts to convince 11 other EC members to support its stand on the farm trade accord between the EC and the United States rather than asking for Indonesian support. Trade Minister Arifin Siregar expressed the opinion during a

meeting with Dominique Strauss-Kahn, French minister of industry and foreign trade, in Jakarta. France is asking for the support because of the prevailing impression in the world that the Uruguay Round deadlock is primarily over the agricultural issue. Charges over the deadlock have been leveled indirectly at France.

Commenting on the French Government's request for support, Minister Arifin Siregar asked France to think about the fate of developing countries as a consequence of the Uruguay Round deadlock. Because of this situation, developing countries should deal with developed countries through bilateral trade agreements. The position of the developing countries in such bilateral agreements is always weak.

French Offer To Launch Satellite Welcomed

BK0412102192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The Indonesian Government, which does not want to rely on any particular country to launch its satellites, has welcomed France's offer to launch the Palapa C satellite by the Ariane space rocket in 1995. Extending the French Government's offer to Tourism, Posts, and Telecommunications Minister Susilo Sudarman, French Industry and Foreign Trade Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn added that France in particular and Europe in general had advanced satellite expertise.

Minister Susilo Sudarman told his guest in Jakarta this morning that Indonesia would make a decision through an open tender system under which the best bid would be chosen. Jonathan Parapak, secretary general of the Department of Tourism, Posts, and Telecommunications, who disclosed the results of the talks between the two ministers, declined to give further comments because the Palapa C satellite would be a long-term project. However, Minister Susilo Sudarman told newsmen that Indonesia did not want to rely on any particular country to launch its satellites. If possible, Indonesia even wants to turn Gag Island in Irian Jaya into a satellite launching center.

Japan Calls for Improvement of Investment Climate

BK0312125192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1139 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 3 (OANA/ANTARA)—Japanese investors hope that Indonesia will improve the investment and trade atmosphere including tax exemption, tax holiday and some other facilities which could support the establishment of foreign companies in the country.

President Director of Jakarta's Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) Jiichiro Fujiwara told ANTARA Tuesday that a sharp decrease in Japan's investments in Indonesia from 1.3 billion U.S. dollars in 1990 to 551 million U.S. dollars in 1992 indicated that the investment atmosphere in Indonesia needed improvement.

In the first eight months of 1992, Japan's investments in Indonesia were recorded at 551 million U.S. dollars or a drop of more than 100 percent compared with those made in 1990.

Declining to comment on whether Japan's investments would be increased in 1993, Fujiwara said that Indonesia should also review its promotion system in a bid increase its foreign investments.

We appreciate what Indonesia has done in launching its trade promotion programme, but it is still inadequate to meet the trade demand from foreign countries, particularly Japan, he said.

By comparing with other countries' investment condition, Fujiwara admitted that Japanese companies, which always have long-term projections of investments in foreign countries, prefer making investments in other countries like China, Thailand, and Malaysia.

Japanese businessmen are also attracted by newly opened markets like Vietnam and the Philippines, he added.

According to Fujiwara, those countries, particularly the Philippines after the U.S. abandoned its military bases, are considered more attractive than Indonesia.

This tendency arises as Indonesia has inadequate supporting industries and infrastructures for some Japanese sophisticated industries like the electronics industry, he added.

Fujiwara expressed his optimism that the amount of Japan's investments in Indonesia will be increased if the circumstances is improved.

He admitted that Indonesia, in some Japanese investors' views, is still a very interesting place for capital investment.

In order to help promote indonesia's exports, he said, JETRO has built some promotion programmes including exchange of trade experts and trade exhibitions.

Touching on the establishment of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) scheduled to start in the early of 1993, Fujiwara said that such free trade area would enable Japanese companies to expand and diversify business.

If the trade area is an open oriented market, I should say that many Japanese investors will be interested to invest and make a closer trade relationship, he said.

He expressed confidence that AFTA would help the ASEAN member countries create and produce a more competitive trade atmosphere.

State Oil Company's Profit for 1990-91 Increases

BK0112092492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0815 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 1 (OANA/ANTARA)—Pertamina, the state oil company, earned profits of rp [rupiah] 1.19

trillion in the 1990/91 period, much higher than that in the previous period which totalled rp765 billion. The increasing profits was recorded after the company tackled the embezzlement report by the Financial and Development Supervisory Agency (BPKP), Gandi, the agency's chairman said here on Monday.

Pertamina has for three consecutive times won the unqualified opinion record by solving 81 of the 117 embezzlement cases during the 1990/91 period which returned no less than rp1.3 trillion to Pertamina's pocket, Gandi said.

President director of Pertamina, Faisal Abda'u, promised to continue settling the rest of the 36 cases which hopefully will bring in rp52 billion back to the company.

Abda'u said that Pertamina as the largest state business company has a total asset of rp44.2 trillion. He said Pertamina's operational profits in 1990/91 before being substracted by the goverment reached rp2.57 trillion. In his report, he said the revenue and the operational income until March 31, 1991, reached rp17.73 trillion, while the operational costs totalled rp15.3 trillion. He also noted that the goverment's equity rose 12 percent.

Jakarta Urges Western Action on Bosnia

BK0412101692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0922 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 4 (OANA/ANTARA)—Islamic countries grouping in the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) were urged to persuade western countries to force Serbs to withdraw from Bosnian and Croatian territories, a parliamentary member has said.

The secretary of the Islamic United Development Party's (PPP) faction in the House of Representatives (DPR), H. Ja'far Siddiq, made the statement here on Thursday, saying that Indonesian Muslims expressed deep concern over the Serbian genocide against Bosnian Muslims.

He said Muslims were being massacred by Serbs in Bosnia while the world community seemed to be watching it and the United Nations did not come to its decision to stop Serbian brutal aggression.

The PPP as the representative of Indonesian Muslims deplored the slow actions of western countries—who used to "be very, very reactive to the human right violations"—to end the most inhuman massacre after the second World War.

Western countries are criticised for its discrimination in facing international conflicts, he said.

When Iraq annexed Kuwait, the United States and its western allies took first initiatives to drive Iraq out of the oil-rich tiny country, he said, adding that they had provided help to Kuwait because they wanted its oil.

But when Bosnia tragedy was staged by Serbs, western countries seemed to be reluctant to offer their helping hand, he said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of 20 young people from the Forum for Bosnia Solidarity, the student propagation movement, and the mosque association met Siddiq and other PPP's executives including H. Hamzah Haz, Chairman of the PPP's faction, to express their concern over the Serbian atrocity in Bosnia.

The spokesman of the delegation, M. Naufal, expressed their disatisfaction over the Indonesian stance on the Bosnia conflict, saying that Indonesia has not taken strict actions as reflected by the fact that the government has not closed the Yugoslav embassy here.

Hundreds of students and youth organisation activists launched a rally in front of the Yugoslav embassy recently to protest the Yugoslav role in secretly helping Serbs to wage war with Bosnian Muslims.

The demonstrators then moved to the parliament building to demand the Indonesian government to immediately cut diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia.

The Bosnia tragedy has won sympathy from Indonesian people as reflected by the collection of aid by the Indonesian Solidarity for Bosnia Committee headed by noted businessman Probosutejo which has reached 3.7 billion rupiahs (2020 rupiahs a US dollar).

Laos

Khamtai Siphandon To Visit Malaysia 8-10 Dec

BK0412064692 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], will lead the delegation of the LPDR Government to pay an official friendship visit to Malaysia from 8 to 10 December 1992.

During the visit, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon will meet and consult with H.E. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, prime minister of Malaysia, and call on the Paramount Ruler of Malaysia. The prime minister will also visit many important historical places and some business production units.

SRV's Le Duc Anh Greets Nouhak on Appointment

BK0412010092 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] On the morning of 2 December at the Presidential Office, President Nouhak Phoumsavan received Nguyen Xuan, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of

the SRV to Laos, who presented him with a congratulatory message from SRV President Le Duc Anh.

The message reads: On the occasion of your appointment as president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], on behalf of the Vietnamese gov?rnment and in my own name, I would like to extend to you my best congratulations. We believe that undeq the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] and that of you, comrade, who are the steadfast revolutionary fighter, a capable and experienced leader, a beloved son of the multiethnic Lao people, and a close friend of the Vietnamese people, the Lao people will be able to fulfill the resolutions adopted at the fifth LPRP Congress, thus gradually winning greater victories in the cause of restructuring and defending and building Laos with peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity.

May you, comrade, have good health and attain brilliant successes in fulfiling your lofty duties.

May the special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of the two countries—Vietnam and Laos—be further consolidated and developed for the interests of the people in each country and for peace and stability, in this region and all over the world.

Thai Army Chief Sends Message on Kaysone's Death

BK0412121192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 4 Dec 92

["Text" of message of condolences from General Wimon Wongwanit, Army commander of the Kingdom of Thailand, to Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense, on President Kaysone Phomvihan's death—dated 25 November]

[Text] I feel grievously sad to be informed of the sudden death of His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on 21 November. The passing away of President Kaysone Phomvihan is considered a great loss for the Government, Army, and people of the LPDR.

His Excellency President Kaysone Phomvihan played a very significant role in promoting Thai-Lao relations. Noteworthy is that his visit to Thailand as a guest of his majesty the king in early January 1992 brought about further enhancement of peace, friendship, and relations between the two countries.

On behalf of the Thai Army and in my own name, I hereby would like to share with you and all fraternal people of the LPDR profound sorrow over the demise of the great leader. With the power of the Triple Gems and all sacred things in the universe, together with the power arising from the meritorious deeds that his excellency the president accomplished while he was still alive, I wish for the soul of His Excellency President Kaysone Phomvihan to go to paradise and reach the state of bliss.

Foreign Minister Greets Romanian Counterpart

BK0112043392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Recently His Excellency Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent a greetings message to His Excellency Adrian Nastase, foreign minister of Romania, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Laos and Romania, 28 November.

In the message Phoun Sipaseut expressed sincere greetings to his excellency the foreign minister of Romania, and through him to the Government and all people of Romania. He also expressed the conviction that the longstanding friendly relations between the two countries will be further developed for the common benefit of the two peoples of Laos and Romania and in the interests of peace, stability, and cooperation in the world.

Philippines

De Villa: U.S. Use of Bases Requires Permission

HK0412095792 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] The United States may not use the country's military bases by virtue of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty alone; it must first get official clearance from the Philippine government. Defense Secretary Renato De Villa said the United States must first ask the Philippine government's permission prior to using the bases.

At the same time, De Villa explained the crucial role which the U.S. Congress will play in determining the position of the United States on this issue.

President Ramos has earlier ordered a review of the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, to determine the extent of U S. assistance the Philippines will receive if it is attacked by any Third World [preceding two words in English] country.

It will be recalled that the United States used Subic Naval Base as a staging point for its forces during the 1991 Gulf War in the Middle East.

Army Chief Sees 1993 End of Communist Insurgency

HK0412060292 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Lucena City—Philippine Army chief Lt. Gen. Arturo Enrile said here yesterday the communist insurgency in the country will end before the end of 1993.

Enrile said the peace initiative of the Ramos administration to solve the rebellion launched by the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA) in 1968 will bear fruit next year and help end the insurgency.

General Enrile also cited as one of the factors contributing to the down-fall of communism in the country the disintegration of the Soviet Union and other socialist regimes in Eastern Europe.

Enrile was here yesterday as guest speaker of the weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Lucena. Earlier, Enrile and other top Army officials inspected the troops in Tayabas, Quezon near the foot of Mt. Banahaw.

He was briefed by Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief Brig. Gen. Cesar F. Fortuno, and Brig. Gen. Regino Lacson, commander of the 2nd Division, about the peace and order situation in their respective areas of responsibility.

Fortuno told Enrile that the strength of the New People's Army in Southern Tagalog has declined due to massive operations under the "Lambat Bitag [Trap Net]" project of the Army. He added that several Army battalions in Quezon and Laguna have been moved to Camarines Norte and Sur, Albay, and Sorsogon in the Bicol region.

Fortuno said the campaign on Mindoro island is undertaken by the Philippine National Police while that on Palawan is under the control of the PNP and the Western Command led by Commodore Pio Garrido.

Fortuno said the CPP-NPA in Bicol region lost their mass base after the Army operatives dismantled the rebel political structure.

Enrile pledged to fully support the Solcom and the 2nd Division in their mission.

In Tayabas, Enrile ordered the troops to be vigilant even during the five-day ceasefire declared by the government this coming Christmas season.

In his brief speech before the Rotary Club of Lucena, Enrile admitted that the Philippine Army and the Armed Forces of the Philippines as a whole, have had the same problem of disunity and fragmentation in the past.

This problem, Enrile said, manifested when the military rebels belonging to the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan (RAM) [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance], the Soldiers of the Filipino People (SFP) and the Young Officers Union (YOU) broke away from the mainstream of the Armed Forces.

However, General Enrile said that "through reforms as well as other measures we have implemented, we have been able to revive, revitalize and re-instill the sense of oneness crucial to our mission."

NPA Hit Squad Members Qualify for Amnesty

HK0412060092 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon today said members of the Sparrow Unit of the New People's Army are qualified to receive amnesty even if they had participated in violence and assassinations.

Drilon said assassinations and violence can be pardoned by the government under the amnesty program, as long as these are done in pursuit of political ends.

Nevertheless, Drilon said, Sparrow Unit members will have to undergo court proceedings on a case-to-case basis and prove that their crimes had ideological motives.

Abadia: Armed Forces To Defend Spratlys Claim

HK0412050692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] will defend the Spratly islands claimed by the Philippines even if it is ill-equipped. General Lisandro Abadia, AFP chief, stated this yesterday.

He admitted that the withdrawal of the Americans from Subic base had reduced Philippine defense capability for the next 15 years. But if the soldiers need to die to defend the country, they will do so because it is part of their job, he said.

The Spartlys are being claimed by Brunei, China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and the Philippines. The Spratlys are said to be rich in oil deposits. Filipino soldiers have occupied eight islands in the Spratlys.

Abadia said the AFP would have a spare parts shortage by 1994 if Congress does not increase its budget.

Military Camp Sales To Fund Base Conversions

HK0312152392 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 3 Dec 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Ramos has authorized the Base Conversion and Development Authority to raise funds through the sale of military camps in Metro Manila.

The chief executive signed an executive order providing for the sale of five military camps within 15 months and three others within the next three years.

Camps Ver, Melchor, and Atienza are to be disposed of within the next three years while ordered sold within the next 15 months are Fort Bonifacio, an unused 2.7-hectare portion of Villamor Air Base, a two-hectare portion of Camp Claudio, the Jusmag Compound, and Camp Bago Bantay.

Ramos Assures Peace Corps Volunteers of Safety

HK0312124292 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[From "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos today assured American Peace Corp Volunteers that they will be safe while in the Philippines. The president said the government will give volunteers appropriate security to help them accomplish their missions. He said he trusts that no untoward incident will befall the volunteers because of the peace package being offered by the government to various sectors. Earlier, the United States recalled all Peace Corps volunteers after one of them, Timothy Swanson, was kidnaped in 1990.

Mission Woos Japanese, South Korean Investors

HK0412051092 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Del Villanueva]

[Text] Seoul—The potentials of the Philippines as a major area for foreign investments in the Southeast Asian region were pointed out yesterday by a top Philippine trade mission before the Korean business community here.

Cavite Gov. Juanito Remulla, who heads the 14-man mission together with Trade and Industry Undersecretary Ernesto Ordonez, said that the assumption to office of President Ramos last June has renewed international business confidence in the Philippines and signalled the prospects for a long-term political and economic stability in the country.

He said that the structural economic and policy reforms introduced this year by the Ramos administration augur well to the country's development prospects.

"It is my opinion that these shall boost business and investors' confidence in this year and beyond," he stressed.

Remulla made these remarks before hundreds of Korean businessmen who attended an investment seminar here sponsored by the Korea Trade Association (KOTRA) and Samsung Co. Ltd.

He said that the Philippine government has also taken serious steps to address the problem of inadequate infrastructures and improve the peace and order condition in the country.

He cited the all-out campaign against criminality that is being pursued by the government to restore law and order and the peace initiatives it has been conducting with the military rebels as well with the Muslim and Communist insurgents.

During the seminar, Trade Undersecretary Ordonez pointed out the advantages of investing in the Philippines.

He said that foreign investors who will venture in the country are assured of lower production costs because of a relatively cheap but high-quality manpower supply and a large pool of competent and professional managers.

The Philippine mission to Korea was composed of officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, representatives from several Philippine industrial estates, and Governor Remulla of Cavite, Gov. Vicente Mayo of Batangas, Gov. Felicisimo San Luis of Laguna, Gov. Casimiro Ynares of Rizal and Gov. Eduardo Rodriquez of Quezon.

The governors assured the Korean businessmen of full government support in their economic undertakings in the Philippines, particularly in the Calabarzon industrial region.

They said the region is an ideal place for investments due to its proximity to Metro Manila, better infrastructure facilities and services and the availability of a capable work force.

Earlier, the group visited Nagoya and Osaka in Western Japan where it conducted a series of meetings and investment seminars with businessmen and investors.

100 Dead in Continued Marag Offensive

HK0212042092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] About 100 people have already died and 16 million Philippine pesos worth of property and crops have been damaged in continued military offensives at Marag Valley.

In a rally staged in front of the Department of Justice, the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace urged the end to the military offensive because many civilians have already been affected. It added the people are confused since they do not know where to go every time a military offensive occurs in the area.

Thailand

Chuan Insists on Closure of Thai-Cambodian Border

BK0312144392 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Thai Government respects the UN decision and will close the Thai-Cambodian border. Commenting on UN sanctions, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said the government must respect the UN resolution rather than protect the interests of businessmen operating along the Thai-Cambodian border. He stressed that the government puts national interests above the losses of border traders. Regarding a report that businessmen are joining forces in a move to protect their businesses at the border, the prime minister said the government has

already extended the border closure deadline to allow businessmen to get their goods out. This was to help minimize their losses.

Government To 'Fully Comply' With UN Sanctions

BK0412024792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Dec 92 p 9

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai reaffirmed yesterday that Thailand will fully comply with the United Nations' sanction against the Khmer Rouge.

He also gave his personal assurance that the Government will make sure that Thai investors and border villagers will be least affected by the enforcement of the sanction.

Mr Chuan said the Government has taken into account the interests of the private and public sectors and it will not forget the people in its cooperation with the UN.

Asked on a reported plan by Thai investors who have business dealings with the Khmer Rouge to join hands to protect their interests which will be affected by the sanction, the Prime Minister said it was time that all parties placed the Government's policy on the Cambodian issue before anything else.

He said the UN resolution was adopted by 16 countries which are members of the UN Security Council and Thailand has but to abide by the resolution.

"Nobody wants the problem to take place. Everyone wants to see peace and Thailand will have to comply with the UN resolution as it is the best solution. It's not right to refuse to accept the UN resolution just because it affects our interests," the Prime Minister commented.

Government Criticized for Restricting UN Flights

BK0312032192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Flexible Approach Way to Deal With Cambodia"]

[Text] The timing of Thailand's get-tough policy on United Nations flights in and out of Cambodia was ill-opportune. Just hours after the UN Security Council's resolution on sanctions against the Khmer Rouge was adopted, transport flights operated by the UN Transitory Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) between Thailand and Phnom Penh were grounded by the toughened Thai stance requiring that such flights be authorised three days in advance. This prompted rumbles of protest from UN officials in Phnom Penh, some of whom viewed the Thai action as retaliation over the sanctions against the internationally-despised Khmer Rouge.

That senior Thai military and civilian officials were quick to deny any connection between the toughened Thai stance and the sanctions against the Khmer Rouge was understandable. As a member of the international community under the UN umbrella, Thailand should—in fact it must—abide by all resolutions adopted by the Security Council. Any action by the Thai Government that could be perceived as a challenge or retaliation against such resolutions would cast this country in a negative light, not to mention the possibility of being ostracised by the Western powers. It was therefore no surprise that senior military officers came out yesterday to publicly deny any retaliatory motive behind the suspension of UN flights. They claimed the action had been taken since the middle of last month in response to strict requirements on Thai flights bringing army engineers and mine-clearing units into Cambodia.

To protect the country's international status and image, the Government needs to clear up quickly whatever doubt might remain over this and set the record straight. If the three-day advance authorisation is required both ways—for Thai military flights into Phnom Penh and for UN flights between the two destinations—so be it. But more importantly, a serious re-assessment of the entire Thai role in the Cambodian process—with the view of Bangkok adopting a more assertive posture and playing a more forceful part in contributing to the peace process—is needed. This should go far beyond the current debate over trade sanctions against the Khmer Rouge which seems to have captured the most attention both inside Thailand and internationally.

To date Thailand has been very much on the 'defensive', the fault of which is partly of its own making. The onus on the UN-imposed embargo on oil sales into, and log exports from, Khmer Rouge-controlled territories is as much on the Khmer Rouge as on Thailand. This country's credibility has been eroded in the face of frequent allegations that some Thai military elements have benefited from the border trade and Thai-invested commercial activities in the Khmer Rouge zones. This pattern of Western perception has to be reversed. Further imports of Cambodian logs must be halted not only because it is in compliance with the Security Council resolution but also for the longer-term ecological benefits in this sub-region.

But the question of Cambodian log exports is not so simplistic as to cover only the Khmer Rouge zones. Since the moratorium on log exports was originally a decision adopted last September by Cambodia's Supreme National Council and now backed by the Security Council, the Thai Government must take a more aggressive stance by prodding the UNTAC to effect the same moratorium along all other Cambodian borders. Not only Thai merchants have been felling logs in Cambodia. Many other Asian companies and the Vietnamese have also been doing the same and this must stop.

Bangkok should also adopt an 'offensive' posture in relation to the far-from-impressive performance by UNTAC. The civil and administrative chaos in Cambodia today represents the pathetic outcome of a massive UN operation that was billed as the largest and most-costly ever undertaken by this international body. The UNTAC's intention to proceed with elections next

May—with or without the participation of the Khmer Rouge—sounds like a recipe for even greater chaos. The irresponsible implication of the approach of simply getting the job over and done with—the job in this case being to organise elections—without considering the potential negative repercussions, is obvious and typical of an international bureaucracy. Who else will suffer from a large band of heavily-armed and battle-tested guerrillas roaming loose along the Thai-Cambodian border, if not Thailand?

Leaders of the Chuan Likphai Government, many of whom are familiar with the Cambodian conflict should now exert their influence—either through persuasion or forceful pressure—to get the Khmer Rouge back into the perace process. This is necessary because Thailand needs lasting peace in Cambodia. But they should not stop there. The Government should also adopt a more assertive participatory role in checking the conduct of the other SNC members as well as the UNTAC. Now is the time to work with ASEAN and other friendly allies such as Japan to force necessary changes in the conduct and performance of UNTAC to ensure that conditions in Cambodia become conducive to all Khmer parties being able to forge a lasting peace. Thailand should not, and must not, continue to be on the receiving end of international opprobrium.

Khmer Rouge To Release Hostages; UN Flights Resume

BK0412021992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Dec 92 pp A1, A3

[Text] The commanding general of UN peacekeeping forces in Cambodia said yesterday that six of his men being held hostage by a Khmer Rouge commander would probably be released by this morning.

Meanwhile, the Thai military yesterday eased some, but not all, restrictions on UN resupply flights between Cambodia and Thailand, calming tensions which stemmed partly from UN sanctions against the Khmer Rouge.

General John Sanderson, an Australian, expressed optimism that the six captives would be freed after a Khmer Rouge general ordered the immediate release of the three Britons, two Filipinos and a New Zealander.

"It will probably be in the morning. They will be released," he said. "...It's a question of communication now."

Sanderson said the order from General Nuon Bunno, senior Khmer Rouge liaison officer in Phnom Penh, had probably reached the commander in Kompong Thom Province who seized the men at midday on Tuesday and accused them of spying for the Phnom Penh Government.

Sanderson said the only thing causing him concern was the possibility that the local commander might disobey the order.

"This is a concern that I have," he said.

"That is one of the fundamentals of negotiations," he added. "The people we negotiate with have the capacity to determine activities at the coalface." [as published]

Khmer Rouge leaders had said the local commander was operating on his own and an earlier message to him that taking UN hostages was against their policy failed to free them.

Other UN officials joined with Sanderson, however, in expressing optimism that the order would be obeyed and the six men freed.

Indonesian troops who sped up the Stoeng Sen River yesterday morning to the hostage village were standing by there despite Khmer Rouge orders to leave.

"The UN military observers (UNMO) are in good spirits, they have food and water and we are in direct communication with them," said Sanderson, military commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

UNTAC spokesman Eric Falt said the six had not been tied up or otherwise abused.

The Khmer Rouge commander has demanded that Phnom Penh Government soldiers withdraw from his area before the foreigners are freed, Falt told reporters. "They are making this the condition for the release and in that sense they are being held hostage," he said.

Falt said none of the negotiations that led to General Nuon Bunno's order dealt with this demand.

Sanderson, meanwhile, is scheduled to fly to Bangkok on Monday for talks with Thai authorities in order solve the current stand-off over Thailand's restrictions on UN supply flights via Bangkok.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said he hoped Sanderson's trip would help "solve the misunderstanding between Bangkok and UNTAC.

"There is nothing serious about the situation. It's a misunderstanding," he said.

House To Set Up Committee on Trade with EC

BK0312053792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Dec 92 p B12

[Text] The House Committee on economic affairs will set up a committee to oversee Thai trade with the European Community and to study the impact of the Single Market in Europe on Thai exports.

The House Committee also assigned the Foreign Ministry to study details of existing bilateral agreements which Thailand has made with other countries. Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said that Thailand might consider suspending some bilateral agreements, if the study shows that they do not benefit Thailand.

Chaired by Suphachai, the committee decided yesterday that the new committee to oversee Thai-EC trade is essential because Thai exporters are failing to keep up with changing regulations and standards on Thai exports to the Community. Exporters fear that they might not be able to maintain current export levels to the EC because of a lack of support information. The Commerce Minister will chair the new committee.

At a seminar last week exporters said they feared that canned food and farm product exports to the Community might fall if the EC imposes tighter standards of control on its food imports. The EC will create a common standard once the Single Market is formed in 1993.

The Thai-EC trade committee will study details of the new EC regulations and work with Thai exporters on ways to meet EC requirements. The committee will also find ways to lessen the impact of the Single Market on Thai exports.

In 1991 Thai-EC trade totalled Bt284.11 billion.

The House Committee also instructed the Foreign Ministry to review details in treaties Thailand has made with other countries. He said that Thailand must be prepared for the outcome of the Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. "We might have to review the existing agreements with our trading partners and consider whether the details are compatible with the Gatt spirit," he said.

Asked whether the government might suspend the Treaty of Amity between Thailand and the US, Suphachai said that the Foreign Ministry is studying the details of the treaty, and the government must decide whether Thai and US investors have really benefitted from the treaty.

At yesterday's meeting, the House Committee on Economic Affairs also began preparation for upcoming talks with the US Trade Representative on the extension of US tax privileges on Thai exports.

Suphachai said after the meeting that the House Committee had already assigned the Permanent Secretar to the Foreign Ministry to talk with President-elect Bill Clinton's transitional trade team to reaffirm Thai commitment to solve the human rights issue.

Originally the US had set Dec 15 as the deadline for its decision on whether to suspend the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) privileges on Thai exports.

'Threat' From U.S.-EC Economic Cooperation Viewed

BK0412100392 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 2 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "America Not Honest With Asian Countries?"]

[Text] Many countries, including Thailand, felt uneasy upon learning that Bill Clinton was elected the new U.S. president. That means the golden era of exports to the United States is over. Clinton will do everything possible to protect U.S. interests. Even worse is a report saying the United States and the European Community are striking a deal to force Asian countries to open markets for their products.

Although the report has not been confirmed, there could be some truth in it because, on 20 November, the day the United States and the European Community agreed on the issue of farm subsidies, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL reported that the United States and the European Community reached a secret deal to take a common stand and pressure countries in Asia and the Pacific in their interests.

They agreed to pressure Japan, South Korea, India, Thailand, and other Asian countries, who have a large amount of exports to and which earned a trade surplus with the United States for several consecutive years. These countries will be asked to open their markets for money, rice, farm, and service products from America and Europe. These countries must allow U.S. and EC commercial banks, insurance companies, finance and trust companies, communications and telecommunications projects to operate and reap profits as they like.

According to general speculation here, Thailand will be forced to open the market to American goods once the administration of President-Elect Bill Clinton takes office. What Thailand seeks to do now is to prevent the EC, Japan, and some other countries, which are its major trading partners, from attaining the same status as the United States. Thailand is seeking to amend the 1966 Thai-U.S. Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations because, under this treaty, American businessmen and companies enjoy full rights in this country as if they were Thai citizens. Many countries want the same privileges from Thailand.

If THE WALL STREET JOURNAL report is true, Thailand and other Asian countries could face a new form of colonialism—by America and EC members, which are ready to suck the blood of Asian countries who are without capability to resist. This is a real threat to the world. Once the United States and the EC join together in production and marketing, their economic power would be immense and could put the rest of the world under their pressure.

Thailand should plan a new marketing strategy, eve though the report still has not been confirmed. We will go bankrupt if we continue to depend on the United States, the European Common Market, and Japan as markets.

'Burma's SLORC Deserves Absolutely No Respect'

BK0412024992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "Burma's SLORC Deserves Absolutely No Respect"]

[Text] This Christmas will indeed be a sad one for the family of Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace laureate who has been under house arrest in Rangoon since July 1989. Plans for her husband and two sons to see her at a time meant for families to be together, were dashed last week when they were told through Burmese military channels that the visit could not go ahead as she had no funds to receive them.

"She refuses to accept any funds or favours from her captors, believing that this would only serve to prolong her illegal detention. For the same reason, she would accept no material support from me... I'm afraid it's beginning to look like a hunger strike. I do believe her situation now is critical," said her husband Michael Aris, a Tibetologist at Oxford University.

In the eyes of her captors, the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) which seized power after a bloody coup in September 1988, Suu Kyi poses a serious threat to their legitimacy because of her relentless campaigns for democracy and human rights and lashing out at their brutality directed at pro-democracy civilians.

International recognition of Suu Kyi's non-violent struggle in the form of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, has failed to make the SLORC less of a monster. The Rangoon junta has made it clear that the National League of Democracy (NLD) leader will be released if she pledges to leave Burma, never to return. Suu Kyi on the other hand wants all political prisoners to be released from the SLORC's torture chambers and has vowed never to desert the fight for freedom in the country.

SLORC officials have repeatedly made clear their view that martial law frees them from restraints on the exercise of state power. In May last year, Maj Gen Khin Nyunt, the head of the military intelligence and SLORC Secretary-1, explained that "martial law means no law at all," being "neither more or less than the will of the general who commands the army." Ten days later Senior General Saw Maung then SLORC chairman, explained, "Martial law means the will of the ruler. He can do anything he wishes to do."

In April this year, SLORC tried to dupe the world when it announced that all people detained for political reasons would be released, other than those who posed a threat to national security. That leopards will never change their spots proved to be true when only a small proportion of the thousands believed to be detained were released, and with the news that many of those released had been forbidden to engage in further political activity. According to the London-based Amnesty International, over 1,500 political activists have been jailed by the junta, sometimes following unfair trials and sometimes with no trial at all. A UN Human Rights Commission report released last week disclosed more than 1,000 cases of arbitrary arrests, abductions, rape, torture, forced labour, and murder by the SLORC.

For ASEAN, it's still business as usual in its "constructive engagement" with the ruling SLORC, the rationale being that Burma should be given the incentive of improving its economy, so that the ruling junta will become less tyrannical. "Poor neighbours are no asset to anyone. The problems of the poor are likely to spill over in the form of refugees, smuggling, black markets, etc. Helping neighbours to become prosperous is therefore mutually beneficial," ASEAN leaders have argued.

Lest we forget, whether with "constructive engagement" or without it, Burmese repression has lasted for over three decades, since Ne Win's military coup ended parliamentary democracy and directed the country along the "Burmese way to socialism." On the journey, one of Asia's richer nations, endowed with educated people and natural resources, has become one of the world's poorest.

The argument put forward by ASEAN that the West is trying to impose its own standards of human rights on Burma which is tantamount to unwarranted interference in Rangoon's domestic affairs does not hold much weight.

The UN Human Rights Commission report states an incident where SLORC troops in Thentarang Camp marched away at gunpoint females from a village, including old women and children who were later beaten, and then raped. Certainly we being civilized Asians will be enraged if it is put forward that this despicable act is standard Eastern behaviour of all in the region. It must be borne in mind that humanity is one regardless of whether a person is from the East or West.

Sadly in Burma today, the powerlessness of the people has bred a race who smile at the enemy at home and swear at him from the safety of refuge overseas. This fear built up through the system by SLORC has eroded the soul of the ordinary Burmese and makes it impossible for them today to behave like people in their own land, let alone free people. Yet this is a dangerous type of fear for underneath it hides an immeasurable rage that often threatens to erupt. And below that lies naked hatred for a group that deserves absolutely no respect.

Papers Comment on Border Dispute With Burma

BK0412091392

[Editorial Report] Three Bangkok dailies in Thai—NAEO NA, SIAM RAT, and MATICHON—on 4 December carry editorials commenting on the border dispute between Thailand and Burma which was triggered by the occupation of Hill 491 in Tha Sae District of the southern Province of Chumphon.

NAEO NA's 350-word editorial on page 4 entitled "Hill 491 is Waiting for Government's Action" reviews statements by oppostion members of parliament during the 2 December House session urging the government to use military force to repel Burmese troops now occupying the disputed hill along the Thai-Burmese border and cites Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri as saying that the Thai Government intends to "settle the dispute through diplomatic means and will consider the use of force only if diplomatic efforts fail."

The paper notes that the opinions of both the government and oppostion are correct in many respects and says "We believe that the government, in particular the prime minister and foreign minister whose past career dealt with national security, must be working closely with the Armed Forces to handle the situation."

SIAM RAT's 450-word editorial on page 3, entitled "The Hill 491 Problem", says that most members of parliament from the opposition parties during the 2 December House session wanted the government to take urgent action to settle the border dispute "although the problem is a leftover from the previous administration."

The editorial says: "As diplomatic actions and negotiations are being made, something must be done to end the occupation of the disputed hill by Burmese troops. They have no right to seize that part of our territory and turn it into their military installation.

"We suggest that the government work out some measures and operations to repel the Burmese troops from Hill 491. If the Burmese troops refuse comply with our request, we should be ready to cope with any eventuality and that is better than allowing the foreign troops to occupy our territory."

MATICHON's 450-word editorial on page 8, entitled "No Extremity Nor Panic", says the government must not be too panicky or extreme in dealing with problems with our western and eastern neighbors—Burma and Cambodia.

Touching on the occupation of Hill 491 by Burmese troops, the editorial points out: "What the government is doing now is cleaning up the big mess left behind by the previous government. So it is right for the government to try to raise the issue for negotiations at the governmental level with the Burmese side if the latter avoids discussing the problem at the local level."

More Checkpoints Opened on Lao Border

BK0212043892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Thailand will open three more permanent border checkpoints along the Thai-Lao border following a proposal by the National Security Council. The proposal was approved by the cabinet during its meeting yesterday. It was in response to a request by the Lao Government and a ruling by the Thai-Lao joint commission in August this year. The three permanent checkpoints are between Pak Chom District of Loei and Sanakham in Vientiane, Bung Kan of Nong Khai Province and Paksan in Bolikhamsai, and Thai Li of Loei Province and Sayaboury in Laos.

Laos earlier requested that Thailand open six border permanent checkpoints. Among the six checkpoints that were opened in 1990, another one has not yet been opened despite the cabinet approval. [sentence as heard] This is because Laos has informed the Thai side that it has yet been ready.

Government To Tell U.S. of Labor Plans

BK0312023592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 92 p 13

[Text] The Government will tell the United States it intends to restore basic rights to labourers in a move to avoid sanctions against Thailand through cancellation of its privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP).

Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Panitchaphak said after chairing a meeting of the Government's International 3conomic Relations Policy Committee that the meeting discussed US claims that Thailand has not sufficiently protected labourers' rights since the coup by the National Peace-keeping Council.

The meeting decided that Foreign Permanent Secretary Pracha Khunakasem will lead a delegation to meet President-elect Bill Clinton's transitional team in the US. The delegation will explain that the Government is proposing to set up a Labour Ministry, which will comprise authorities looking after labour welfare, training and the industrial environment.

Dr Suphachai said the US will be told of an amendment to the State Enterprise Workers' Relations Act to return basic rights to state enterprise workers.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has announced that the Government will move seriously to solve child labour exploitation and that those violating the law will face tough penalties, Dr Suphachai said.

Thailand was accused by the American Federation Labour Congress Industrial Organisation (AFLCIO), through the US Trade Representative, of dissolving the Labour Union Act, effectively barring workers from setting up unions. It asked the US Government to cancel GSP privileges to Thailand.

Dr Suphachai said the meeting also appointed a committee chaired by Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon to monitor the progress of the Single European Community Market.

Cabinet Approves Establishment of Labor Ministry

BK0312063092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Cabinet during its meeting this week approved the establishment of a Ministry of Labor as proposed by the Ministry of Interior. The Ministry of Labor will comprise six agencies, namely the Office of the Secretary to the Minister, the Office of the Permanent Secretary, the Department for Job Placement, the Department of Labor Skill Development, the Department of Labor Welfare and Protection, and the Office of Social Security. The ministry will have its regional offices to be under the supervision of the Office of the Permanent Secretary. The Cabinet approved in principle the setting up of the Ministry of Labor in January this year.

The Ministry of Interior has proposed the structure of the Ministry of Labor in line with the present economic and social conditions. The new structure is intended to upgrade skilled labor, improve workers' quality of life, and distribute income in accordance with seventh National Economic and Social Development Plan.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai Interviewed

BK0312023792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Dec 92 pp 4, 5

[Report on interview of Prime Minister Chuan Likphai by Peter Maitri Ungphakon of the BANGKOK POST and Victor Mallet of the FINANCIAL TIMES—date and place not given]

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai is under fire for having achieved no results since his appointment in September and for failing to offer the country a vision of what the government is planning.

Wrapping and re-wrapping himself in his suit to keep himself warm in the freezing air-conditioning of Government House, he insists that he has clear ideas of what his government's priorities are. He does not plan a clear break with the Anan Panyarachun government's line, rather a shift of emphasis, with some policies continued.

And he complains that comparisons with the Anan government are unfair on two counts: First, because the Anan government had no parliamentary opposition to deal with, and second, because the Anan government's massive legislative programme was often ill-conceived and has led to problems that the present administration is having to clear up.

He also defends his government's handling of the amnesty decree and the Sia Song stock market scandal.

What, first, does his administration consider to be priorities that are different from those of previous governments? Mr Chuan identifies two priorities: The promotion of democracy "at all levels," starting with villages and tambons, and redistributing income by providing investment incentives and job opportunities in rural areas.

Income distribution "is not something you can measure with a ruler. People in each locality, the needs of each locality, the status of each locality, the standards of living in each locality are different. So I want to blend together the ideas of the academics and the reality that politicians experience in order to solve the problem."

His attack on inequality will be two-pronged: Job-creation through investment, and the beginnings of a welfare system with free education and free medical care for children and the elderly.

"The Finance Ministry and the Board of Investment will be asked to cooperate by providing clear and sufficient incentives for investors to regard rural areas as priority targets and to provide them with profits. We have to accept the reality that to expect them to make sacrifices would be too idealistic. So the state will have to be prepared to create incentives for them."

While his approach emphasises the needs of the rural population his prescription will not meet the approval of some workers in non-governmental organisations who have doubts about the wisdom of taking sections of the population out of agriculture and into industry.

More conventional economists would approve of his argument that the agricultural sector cannot sustain a growing rural population. Some development workers who advocate self-sufficiency in agriculture would argue that this view relies too much on markets to provide well-being.

"We would hope to take some people out of the agricultural sector. Those who cannot leave would still farm but they would not have to share too much of the land with other people. They would then have enough land to earn a reasonable income.

"If we don't take some people out, everyone will be crammed into agriculture where the income is already low, and they will have to share that income."

Free education is to be offered at pre-school, primary and secondary levels. Grants could be available for needy students in higher education but this would be limited and depend on ability.

"Public health is another important matter. Thailand is not a welfare state and there is no guarantee that the poor will always receive free medical care.

"Therefore in this we think we should allocate perhaps no more than a few billion baht of the budget to look after one group of people who are unable to look after themselves, for example children and the elderly.

"I already started doing this when I was Public Health Minister, with good results, for the elderly. I am going to continue.

"It amounts to increasing people's incomes by cutting their expenses. When people work all through their lives they save whatever they can to receive medical treatment when they fall sick. If we look after them, their anxieties in this respect will be reduced."

Mr Chuan also highlights three policies of previous governments that his administration will continue: Limiting the expansion of the bureaucracy, cutting red tape and introducing freer trade, initially under the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

"In fact these are not the policies invented by Prime Minister Anan. They are originally policies from the time of Prime Minister Prem."

That includes freer trade, an idea that turned into AFTA under Mr Anan. "I think it should expand beyond ASEAN, but that is something that should be discussed further."

Mr Chuan hints that his government might like to see other Southeast Asian countries, perhaps the Indochinese, also part of a free trade pact. But he names no names.

"That is something for the future. In our discussions we have considered the possibility that AFTA alone might be too narrow.

"But at this stage it is only an idea. Right now AFTA itself has not really taken shape. So within the time I am working here we might not get beyond that. This is something we are analysing, the deputy prime ministers and business people who are helping us. They agree that we should continue to support AFTA, but we are also examining the question of whether it should go beyond that."

This is not normally a subject that is considered to be a special interest of Mr Chuan, who started out as a lawyer and has spent most of his political life in parliamentary or more social affairs, not in economics.

"Free trade is a subject we spent a lot of time discussing and interpreting when we were drafting our policy. We said we would emphasise fair competition, not free competition that is unfair. We put a lot of emphasis on the true meaning of fair trade."

The philosophy extends to competition policies within Thailand as well as to international trade, but at this stage Mr Chuan does not expand on the ideas.

All in all, would it be right to characterise his government as being more concerned about its rural constituents whereas Mr Anan's was pro-big business?

"I would consider both to depend on each other. I will not separate them. However, Prime Minister Anan had more experience from the industrial sector. We have more experience from the village sector.

"Nevertheless, if the industrial sector is not successful, job expansion for the village sector will be difficult and therefore the two depend on each other."

But much depends on how well the coalition can work together. Mr Chuan rejects the idea of a "danger" that the coalition could fall apart. There are no dangers, he says, only "obstacles". His manner remains typically calm and unemotional, but his words reveal a hint of frustration.

"Sometimes meetings of coalition governments are wearying. In Cabinet meetings, some people are long-winded and that is extremely wearying. Sometimes the point is tiny but the speech is long."

He refuses to name the longwinded. "They tend to be more senior," he says, laughing.

The need to compromise also means a less ambitious legislative programme than Mr Anan's.

"In Khun Anan's time, an immense amount of laws was passed because there was no opposition. Those laws are all the problems of the present government. Passing laws is dead easy when there is no opposition. But when the time comes to put them into practice, they all cause problems. They are all causing problems now in practice."

The Anan government simply did not think through the practical implications of such laws and regulations as the compulsory wearing of motorcycle helmets.

"Whenever problems arise, the Prime Minister is always blamed first. But some problems did not start with me. For example, the motorcycle helmets or third party motor insurance.

"No matter which ministry is the originator of the problem, the Prime Minister is blamed. The Prime Minister has to take responsibility for everything. Even issues that others are supposed to look after."

The comment is partly a reaction to comparison with the Anan government and partly in response to criticism from one of his deputy prime ministers, Bunchu Rotchanasathian, who accused him of getting too involved in every issue no matter how small, at the expense of finding an overall direction for the government.

"In Khun Bunchu's case, he is supposed to look after traffic problems. But so far he had not held any meetings. So I asked him to hold a meeting and to brief me. Some issues I have to push."

In the Thai system, the Prime Minister has to know everyth
laughs.

"I think my work style relies on a lot of listening, on being briefed by working groups on topics I am interested in rather than on special reading.

"Every week I go out to the countryside to see what is happening for myself. In the Thai Parliament, if you haven't seen for yourself what is happening, you are not accepted. Therefore you have to see it for yourself."

He does see May as a turning point, but one that should not be exaggerated, and although he is confident that the military will try to become more professional, he does not rule out a repeat of May.

"After May I said before anyone else that we should not believe that Thailand had suddenly become democratic just because Gen Suchinda had gone. I was the first to remind people. I don't believe that a single event will change people's attitudes completely.

"We have to accept the reality. The politicians are the same group of people, mostly old faces. There are only a few new faces. The attitudes are the old attitudes.

"But I consider us to have made one step forward and I hope that this can lead to second and third steps. So long as we don't step backwards or tread on the same spot. We should not think that change will be so rapid that all at once we know how to run.

"What can be seen clearly as a result of April and May is that politicians have been split into two groups. But that division will not be permanent. There will be changes in the future."

What about the military? "In my opinion, the military are more likely to stick to their own role. than to play a political role as they did in the past. There are two reasons.

"First, I, as the government, will not make the military my own personal power-base. They will have to be part of the apparatus of the government. But for them to support me personally, I won't do that.

"Second, the present military commanders are democratically-minded than previous commanders.

"Some laws have been changed so that military decisions will have to receive the approval of the Cabinet."

And he blames the military and paramilitary forces, or at least their personnel, for causing countless troublesome incidents like the Ranong riot.

"I come across these problems frequently. Restaurant owners often complain to me that soldiers get drunk and smash the place up. So problems arise because people get drunk."

Nevertheless, "It will get better. It will get better, I'm confident."

Mr Chuan also defends his government's handling of the amnesty decree. Critics say he should never have sought the opinion of the Constitutional Tribunal but that he should have allowed the public to take the case through the courts.

He argues that any other route would have caused confusion, with different officials making their own interpretations of the legal position. In close consultation with lawyers and his colleagues, he concluded that any other option would have left the government open to accusations of irresponsibility.

"In the opinion of the chief prosecutor the matter was closed. Therefore if we did nothing, and left it to its fate, we would have been accused of being a drifting, irresponsible government. We had already worked out how we would be criticised. Therefore we started to work out what we should do.

"Then, the police who had to investigate the case could not decide what the legal position was. They consulted the Interior Ministry."

The Interior Ministry asked a subcommittee of the Juridical Council which replied that this was a political matter that could only be dealt with if the Cabinet as a whole submitted a request.

So Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut proposed that the Cabinet formally request an advisory ruling from the Juridical Council. Most ministers argued that the matter should be sent to the Constitutional Tribunal for a definitive ruling, and Gen Chawalit agreed.

Mr Chuan says he made a point of ensuring that the entire Cabinet was unanimous and that every minister made a clear pronouncement.

"I asked them myself, every party, what they felt. Every party agreed.... I knew what problems would occur. Many people lacked the courage to stand up for their own judgements. If the Press praised the decision they would claim that they approved it. If the Press was critical they would say 'I was hesitant because I disagreed,' for example.

"So I asked everyone. I asked Khun Bunchu, I asked Col Winai, I asked Khun Chamni, I asked—the Social Action Party—Khun Suwit, I asked Khun Bunphan Kaeowatthana. I asked everyone who might disagree. They all said it should go to the Constitutional Tribunal.

"I asked the interior minister: 'Don't you want to send it to the Juridical Council?' He said it should go to the Constitutional Tribunal because if it was sent to the Juridical Council whatever the ruling the critics would say the Juridical Council are governing people.

The same careful, behind-the-scenes planning went into the handling of the Sia Song affair, he says.

"We discussed this matter for about three weeks before it erupted. At the end we had to conclude that this was the best way out because the law did not give us any other option. We realised that it would have some negative effects. But taking a long term view we believed that it would raise the stock market to international standards.

"We realise that investors still behave like gamblers. They are not interested in dividends. They probably don't even know what businesses the companies are involved in, they don't know what dividends are paid. It's only day-to-day trading."

Mr Chuan agrees that corruption could be the downfall of the present government, as it was for the Chatchai government that was overthrown in last year's coup—even though the military's real motives were not connected with corruption. He accepts that this remains a danger because many old faces remain in powerful political positions.

"The government must not provide an opportunity for the excuse to be used again. There are indeed many old faces. But I am confident that it is possible to keep illegitimate practices under control. I cannot be sure about the future, but I will do my best to keep it under control.

"Everyone is being extremely careful.... It is an important policy item. If we make a mistake here the government will be unable to handle the consequences."

How can he prevent his ministers from being corrupt?

"First, the policy emphasises this. Second, everyone knows what I think about it. Third, everyone knows the reasons for the fall of the previous [Chatchai] government. Fourth, every party hopes to build itself up."

Does this therefore depend on the firmness of the Prime Minister? "Partly. It partly does."

Corruption is also a plague in the bureaucracy that prevents proper law enforcement. Mr Chuan, however, is only partly sympathetic with the argument that law-enforcers should be paid more.

"That's more of an excuse made by the people who take bribes. In fact the police are not paid any less than other officials. They should be paid more but in this economy other officials are also underpaid.

"And in comparison to most people officials... in all branches of the bureaucracy earn more. People struggle and are willing to pay to get their children into the bureaucracy. "Of course if you compare [officials' pay] to businessmen's salaries or the pay of employees in the Bangkok private sector, then the officials are paid less.

"What I see clearly is that the government and its officials have neglected enforcement and this has become a habit."

Mr Chuan sees the present period as being crucial to Thailand's democratic development.

"That's why I always say this government will support anything that is democratic. If people want to hold a no-confidence debate against me tomorrow, I'll be delighted because that is democratic."

Paper Examines Government's Attitude Toward Laws

BK2911045692 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Nov 92 p A9

[Editorial: "Laws Must be the Solution Rather Than the Problem"]

[Text] Chatchai Chunhawan was known for having a "no problem" administration, which of course ran into big problems on Feb 23, 1991. The catch-phrase for Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and the current government seems to be "follow the law." This certainly sounds encouraging for a democratic process where law rules the land rather than personalities.

Yet is enforcing the law enough, or is that missing the point? Where do these laws come from? Are they just? More to the point, whose laws are in force and who do they serve?

The conflicts between the Army and the police this week in Ranong and Nakhon Ratchasima focuses on these issues. Apparently in both cases the army officers involved were enraged when the police did not enforce the law as these soldiers saw fit. So the soldiers took the law into their own hands for the sake of their "dignity."

Or actually they were incensed because the military has controlled the law for generations in Thailand, and its influence is felt everywhere. Under the Interior Ministry regulations, the Army is in charge of the initial investigation in Ranong, and reportedly there has been an agreement between Defence and Interior ministries to try the soldiers in a military court for these criminal offences. So the Army is legally above the law.

Indeed, many of the laws in the books do not bring justice so much as block justice. Constitutions and democracy are not the same thing. The present constitution was written not to guarantee democracy so much as guarantee institutional power for certain groups. The generals who are responsible for the violence in May cannot be brought to justice for constitutional reasons. And according to the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act (1976) the May massacre was legal as well as procedurally correct.

This Brave New World scenario brings about a dangerous frustration with the rule of law which is often so biased. While commemorating 180 days since the Bangkok massacre, one pro-democracy activist turned this question on its head: "It's better not to have a constitution. Then the government couldn't hide behind it, and would have to be responsible to the people," he said with a laugh.

He was joking, but his statement reflects some of the frustration that many feel with the Chuan administration. A frustration strong enough to make former MP Chalat Worachat, who led the hunger strike in April and May, to turn himself into the police last week in symbolic protest to a judicial system that was unjust.

Government Spokesperson Aphisit Wetchtchachiwa declined to directly answer this concern. He only said that the government could not prosecute those who ordered the shooting of unarmed protestors in May under existing laws.

So the problem is more than enforcing the laws, but the laws themselves. Premier Chuan needs to add another crucial clause to his catch-phrase "follow the law". "Make the law just" is perhaps more important than "follow the law" and these two elements are intertwined with this week's events. While making sure of "following the law" in the prosecution of the soldiers who went berserk, the government needs to reexamine the laws themselves.

It was certainly a good start for the Chuan administration to abolish the Internal Peacekeeping Directorate Act which legalized the violent tactics of the military in May, and the present review of the NPKC's constitution is encouraging. But there are many other laws and regulations that protect certain groups and thus get in the way of justice.

None of this is new; it is as old as the joke which says "justice" is for "just us." But the Chuan administration needs to be told again to worry more about people than papers, and that way work to make laws the solution rather than the problem.

Joint Air Exercise With Singapore Previewed

BK2811070692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The Royal Thai Air force [RTAF] and the Air Force of Singapore will hold a joint air exercise codenamed "Air Thai-Sing X 1992" during 30 November to 18 December 1992 at the RTAF air bases in Nakhon Ratchasima Province in the northeast. The joint air exercise, the 10th of its kind, is aimed at familiarizing air commands of both countries with the joint operation and at further developing Air Forces of the two countries. Squadron leader Yothin Prayunphokkharat, deputy director of the Operations Department of the Royal Thai Air Force, is the commander of the operation assisted by wing commander F. Chua, commander of the Paya Lebar air base in Singapore.

The joint air exercise is carried out in two parts. The first part concerned strategic planning with commanding officers of both sides coming together at the Sembawang air base in the Republic of Singapore during 23 to 30 August this year. The Commander in Chief of the RTAF Air Chief Marshal Kan Phimanthip presided over the inauguration on 23 August. The joint air exercise will take place at Wing 1 and Wing 2 in Nakhon Ratchasima Province during 30 November to 18 December. The commander in chief of the RTAF will be presiding over the closing ceremony on 17 December.

Vietnam

Further Reportage on PRC Premier Li Peng's Visit

Foreign Minister Sees 'Newly Emerging' Problems

BK0312154192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Report on a news conference held by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam "on the occasion of the conclusion of PRC Premier Li Peng's official friendship visit to Vietnam"—date and place not given]

[Text] On the occasion of the conclusion of the official friendship visit to Vietnam by PRC Premier Li Peng, Foreign Minsiter Nguyen Manh Cam held a news conference with the participation of a large number of Vietnamese and foreign correspondents and representatives of various foreign embassies and international organizations in Hanoi.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam observed that the visit of Premier Li Peng has an important significance for the strengthening and consolidation of relations between the two countries and that the visit is fruitful and effected a new change in Sino-Vietnamese relations. He emphasized: As the peoples of Vietnam and China are inherently endowed with an age-old friendly tradition, the Vietnamese people welcome the visit of Premier Li Peng and sincerely wish that this visit will contribute to further promoting the relations of friendship and cooperation in the interests of the two countries and of peace and stability in the region.

Regarding economic and commercial relations, the minister made known that the two sides have agreed on a number of guidelines and signed four new agreements to serve as a basis to enhance bilateral relations in the time to come. He said that with experience drawn from the past, the two sides should make joint efforts to execute seriously and fully those commitments and agreements already signed in order to develop economic relations in a wholesome and effective manner.

Concerning outstanding and newly emerging problems, the minister said that the two sides had better understood each other's position and on that basis had agreed on the guiding principles for the forthcoming negotiations at the expert and governmental levels with a view to solving these problems satisfactorily as soon as possible on the basis of respect for each others sovereignty and interests. To this end, efforts from both sides are necessary.

The minister answered many questions raised by newsmen. Answering a question raised by a foreign correspondent as to what he thought about Chinese views on a temporary solution to the question of the Tu Chinh Reef, the minister said: During various talks and exchanges of views, the Vietnamese leaders reaffirmed to the Chinese side that the Tu Chinh reef comes under

Vietnam's jurisdiction and lies on Vietnam's continental shelf, only 80 nautical miles from the base line of Vietnam. In this area, Vietnam has conducted, is conducting, and will continue to conduct scientific research and surveys for exploitation and has erected a number of research installations. That is why Vietnam requires that China not do anything in this area since it lies in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam. Accordingly, the Tu Chinh reef is neither a disputed area nor an outstanding problem left by history but a problem newly arising after the normalization of the relations between the two countries.

The minister said the two sides held differing views on the question of the Tu Chinh Reef. Through exchanges of views, the Chinese side promised to study the question and dealt with the possibility of considering a provisional solution. However, the Vietnamese side has consistently affirmed that Tu Chinh falls under Vietnam's sovereignty and is an indisputable matter. If China responds to Vietnam's request to settle the question in the spirit of Vietnam's viewpoint, that will certainly contribute to stepping up the development of fine relations between the two countries.

Holds News Conference

BK0312150992 Hanoi VNA in English 1445 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 4 [dateline as received]—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam on December 2 held a press conference on the occasion of the conclusion of the official visit to Vietnam of Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Many representatives of the foreign press corps and diplomatic and international missions in Hanoi attended the conference.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said Premier Li Peng's visit has an important significance for the promotion and strengthening of the relations between the two countries. He said the visit is fruitful and marks a new step forward in the Sino-Vietnamese relations. He stressed that the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples are bound by a long-time traditional friendship. Therefore, the Vietnamese people welcome the visit of the Chinese premier and sincerely wish that the visit would contribute to further promoting the friendship and cooperation in the interests of the two countries and of peace and stability in the region.

Rewarding commercial and economic relation, the foreign minister made known that the two sides have agreed on a number of guidelines and signed four new agreements to serve as basis to enhance the bilateral relations in the time to come. He said that on the strength of past experiences, the two sides should make joint efforts to execute seriously and fully the agreements already signed in order to develop economic relations in a healthy and effective manner.

Concerning outstanding and newly-emerging problems, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam said that the two sides had better understood each other's position and on that basis had agreed on the guiding principles for the coming negotiations at the expert and governmental levels with a view to solving the problems appropriately as soon as possible on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and interests. To this end, efforts from both sides are necessary, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam stressed.

Answering a question on China's view on a temporary solution to the question of the Tu Chinh Reef, he said: 'During [words indistinct] leaders reaffirmed that the reef comes under Vietnam's jurisdiction and lies on Vietnam's continental shelf only 80 nauical miles from the base line of Vietnam. In this area, Vietnam has conducted, is conducting and will conduct scientific researches and surveys for exploitation and has erected a nember of research installations. That's why, Vietnam requires China not to do anything in this area since it lies in the exclusive economic zone of Vietnam. Accordingly, Tu Chinh is neither a disputed area nor an outstanding problem left by history but a problem arising newly after the normalization of the relations between the two countries. The minister said the two sides held different views on the question of Tu Chinh Reef. Through exchanges of views the Chinese side promised to study the question and dealt with the possibility of considering a provisional solution. However, the Vietnamese side has consistently affirmed that Tu Chinh belongs to Vietnam's sovereignty and is an indisputable matter. If China responds to Vietnam's request to settle the question in the spirit of Vietnam's viewpoint, that will certainly contribute to stepping up the development of the relations between the two countries. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Answering questions relating to China's affirmation that during the last Vietnam war, the Vietnamese leaders once supported China's statement on its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa [Paracels] and Truong Sa [Spratlys] Archipelagoes, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam explained:

Our leaders' previous declaration on the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa Archipelagoes was made in the following context:

At that time, under the 1954 Geneva agreement on Indochina, the territories from the 17th parallel southward including the two archipelagoes were under the control of the South Vietnam administration. Moreover, Vietnam then had to concentrate all its force on the highest goal of resisting the US aggressive war to defend national independence. It had to gain support of friends all over the world. Meanwhile, Sino-Vietnamese relations were very close and the two countries trusted each other. China was according to Vietnam a very great support and valuable assistance. In that context and stemming from the above-said urgent requirement, our leaders' declaration was necessary because it directly served the fight for the defence of national independence and the freedom of the motherland. More specifically, it aimed at meeting the then immediate need to prevent

the US imperialists from using these islands to attack us. It has nothing to do with the historical and legal foundations of Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa Archipelagoes.

We have more than once issued similar statements on this issue to reaffirm our sovereignty over these archipelagoes.

Li Peng 2 Dec News Conference

BK0412042692 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] PRC Prime Minister Li Peng held a news conference in Hanoi on the afternoon of 2 December prior to his departure from Hanoi for a visit to Ho Chi Minh city.

Attending were a large number of local and foreign press, television and radio correspondents, and the press attaches of various foreign embassies in Hanoi.

At the press conference, Premier Li Peng informed the newsmen of the results of his visit to Vietnam as evidenced by the signing of four agreements, namely an agreement on encouragement and guarantee of investments, an agreement on economic and technical cooperation, an agreement on scientific-technological cooperation, and an agreement on cultural cooperation.

The results of this visit to Vietnam marks a new step forward in the Sino-Vietnam relations of friendship and cooperation.

Premier Li Peng also answered questions raised by some correspondents.

'Unofficial' Text of Communique

OW0412082492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0750 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 4 KYODO—The following is an unofficial translation, as provided by Vietnam, of a Vietnam-China joint communique issued Friday at the closing of Chinese Premier Li Peng's official visit to Vietnam.

1) At the invitation of Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet, Chinese Premier Li Peng paid an official friendship visit to Vietnam from November 30 to December 4.

Premier Vo Van Kiet held talks with Premier Li Peng. General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh, advisers to the party Central Committee Nguyen Van Linh and Pham Van Dong received Premier Li Peng.

The talks and receptions took place in an atmosphere of friendship, sincerity and frankness, mutual respect and understanding.

2) The two sides reviewed new developments in bilateral relations since the Vietnam-China summit in November 1991. The two sides were unanimous that further consolidating and strengthening the bilateral relations of cooperation, friendship and neighbourliness conform to the fundamental interests and common aspiration of the two peoples and are beneficial to peace, stability and development in the region.

On the basis of the results of the talks, the two sides signed the following documents: agreement on investment promotion and protection, agreement on economic and technological cooperation, agreement on scientific and technological cooperation, and agreement on culture between the two governments.

3) The two sides exchanged ideas with a view to settling problems remaining in the bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to take necessary measures to ensure that the four newly signed agreements as well as the eight signed previously be fully implemented so as to push up the cooperation in various fields between the two countries in a direction of effective and stable development.

4) The two sides reaffirmed the agreements reached during their 1991 summit that they would settle bilateral territorial and boundary disputes peacefully through negotiations.

The two sides agreed that along with the continuation of the expert-level negotiations, those of government level would be begun soon on the basis of standards and principles of recognized international laws to reach an agreement on fundamental principles to settle the territorial and boundary disputes and on the basis of the said common principles to accelerate the negotiation process so as to settle the territorial and boundary disputes, including those on land and in the sea, at an early date. Pending a settlement, the two sides would not conduct activities which will further complicate the disputes.

5) The two sides reaffirmed agreements reached between leaders of the two countries noted in the Vietnam-China joint communique dated November 10, 1991, with regard to the issue of Taiwan.

6) The two sides informed each other of the political and economic situation in their respective country.

The Vietnamese side presented great and important achievements recorded in all fields of renovation by the Vietnamese people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam in line with policies worked out by the seventh party congress to build a rich, strong and prosperous Vietnam.

The Chinese side presented the situation of the Chinese people under the leadership and encouragement of the spirit of the 14th congress of the Communist Party of China, accelerating open-door policy and renovation, building socialism in a Chinese way, as well as great achievement recorded.

7) The two sides exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest. The two sides held that the present day world is in a stage of great and profound upheavals. The context of the two extremes has ended, the world is developing in a multi-extreme direction. Peace and development remain the two major tendencies of the

present-day world. The two sides advocated, on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistance, to establish a new world order of peace, stability, equality and reasonability.

8) The two sides held that maintaining peace and stability in Asia-the Pacific and strengthening economic cooperation among the countries and regions conform with the common aspiration and fundamental interest of the peoples in the region. [sentence as received]

The two sides advocated that differences and disputes among states should be settled peacefully through negotiations in observation of the United Nations charter and international laws without the use of force or the threat of use of force.

The two sides hailed new developments in the relations among states in Southeast Asia, which will contribute to the promotion of peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

9) As signatories to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the two sides expressed their wish to, together with the countries and factions concerned, positively contribute to the acceleration of the full and serious implementation of the Paris agreement so as to achieve national reconciliation and concord, building Cambodia into a country of peace, independence, neutrality and nonalignment which has relations of friendship with all countries and contributes to the consolidation of peace and stability in Asia.

10) Premier Li Peng sincerely thanked the solemn and friendly reception by Vietnamese Government and people. Premier Li Peng invited Premier Vo Van Kiet to officially visit China at a time convenient. Premier Vo Van Kiet accepted the invitation with pleasure, the date of the visit will be agreed through diplomatic channel.

Hanoi, December 4, 1992

Joint Communique Issued

BK0412130592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 4 Dec 92

["SRV-China Joint Communique"—date not given]

[Text] 1. At the invitation of SRV Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, Chinese Premier Li Peng paid an official friendship visit to the SRV from 30 November to 4 December 1992. Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet held talks with Premier Li Peng. Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Le Duc Anh, president of the state; and Nguyen Van Linh and Pham Van Dong, advisers to the CPV Central Committee also received Premier Li Peng.

The talks and meetings between the Vietnamese and Chinese leaders took place in an atmosphere of friendship, sincerity, frankness, and mutual respect and understanding.

2. The two sides reviewed developments in their bilateral relations since the Vietnam-China Summit in November 1991. The two sides unanimously contended that further consolidation and strengthening of bilateral relations of cooperation, neighborliness, and friendship are in conformity with the fundamental interests and common aspirations of the peoples of the two countries, and are beneficial to peace, stability, and development in the region. On the basis of the results of their talks, the two sides signed the following agreements:

—an Agreement on Encouragement and Guarantee of Investments;

—an Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation;

—an Agreement on Scientific-Technological Cooperation; and

—an Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the SRV and PRC Governments.

3. The two sides exchanged views on resolving outstanding problems in bilateral relations. The two sides agreed to take essential measures to ensure that the four abovementioned agreements and the eight agreements signed previously—namely the Trade Agreement, the Provisional Agreement on Controlling Border Affairs, the Agreement on Economic Cooperation, the Agreement on Mutual Exemption of Visa, the Agreement on Trans-Border Railways, the Agreement on Shipping, the Agreement on Posts and Telecommunications, and the Agreement on Civil Aviation—are comprehensively implemented to accelerate cooperation in various domains between the two countries in an effective and stable manner.

4. The two sides reasserted the spirit of agreements reached at the Vietnam-China 1991 Summit that they would settle bilateral territorial and boundary disputes through peaceful negotiations.

The two sides agreed that while expert-level negotiations are going on, negotiations at the governmental level will begin soon on the basis of adhering to the standards and principles of recognized international laws to reach an agreement on fundamental principles to resolve the territorial and boundary disputes. Both sides will, on the basis of these principles, accelerate the process of negotiations to quickly settle the territorial and boundary disputes including those on land and at sea. Pending a settlement, the two sides will not conduct activities which will further complicate the territorial and boundary disputes.

5. The two sides reasserted agreements reached by leaders of the two countries as stated in the Vietnam-China Joint Communique dated 10 November 1991 concerning the issue of Taiwan.

6. The two sides informed each other of the political and economic situation in their respective countries.

The Vietnamese side presented the great, important achievements scored by Vietnamese citizens in the renovation undertaking in various domains under CPV

leadership and in line with orientations set by the seventh CPV congress to build a rich, strong, and prosperous Vietnam.

The Chinese side presented the situation of the Chinese people under their leadership and encouragement of the spirit of the 14th congress of the Communist Party of China on strenthening unity, accelerating the open-door policy and reform, and building a Chinese-style socialism, as well as other great achievements scored by China.

7. The two sides exchanged views on international issues of mutual concern. They contended that the present world is in a stage of great and profound upheaval, that the bipolar system has ended, that the world is developing in a multi-extreme direction, and that peace and development are still the two major goals of the world at present. The two sides advocated, on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence, establishing a new world order of peace, stability, equality, and justice.

8. The two sides contended that maintaining peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and strengthening economic cooperation among countries and between regions conform with the common aspirations and fundamental interests of countries in the region.

The two sides advocated that differences and disputes between countries should be settled peacefully through negotiations in accordance with the United Nations Charter and international laws without the use of force or the threat of force.

The two sides welcomed new developments in relations among countries in the Southeast Asian region and Asia and pledged that they will contribute efforts to promote peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

9. As signatory countries to the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the two sides expressed their desire, together with the countries and factions concerned, to positively contribute to accelerating the full and serious implementation of the Paris peace agreement to achieve national reconciliation and concord, and to build Cambodia into a peaceful, independent, neutral, and nonaligned nation having friendly relations with all countries, thereby contributing to consolidating peace and stability in the Asian region.

10. Premier Li Peng sincerely thanked the Vietnamese Government and people for the solemn and friendly welcome extended to the Chinese delegation. Premier Li Peng invited Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to pay an official visit to China at a convenient time, and he accepted with pleasure. The date of the visit will be agreed upon through diplomatic channels.

Vice Premier Meets Delegation of U.S. Law Firms

BK0412065392 Hanoi VNA in English 0614 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 4—Vice Prime Minister Phan Van law companies Baker-McKenzie, Coving-Burling and Sullivan-Cromwell. [sentence as received]

At the reception, Vice Prime Minister Khai informed his guests of Vietnam's renovation policy and its initial achievements in economic developmennt.

On the Vietnamese-American relationship, the vice prime minister said an early normalization would conform to the benefit of the two peoples, of peace, cooperation and develpment in the region. He welcomed the working visits of the American lawyers, and he said he hoped this would contribute to the opening of a new chapter in the relationship between the two countries.

The American guests said they were prepared to cooperate with Vietnam in the immediate as well as long-term issues so as to develop the relations between the two countries.

While here, the American delegation will have working sessions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Planning Commission, the Ministry of Justice, the Vietnam State Bank, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment and other institutions in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Agro-Economic Cooperation With India Tightened

BK0312075792 Hanoi VNA in English 0718 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 3—Cooperation between India and Vietnam in the area of agriculture is strong and deeply rooted, Mr. R. Dayakar, Indian consul-general in Ho Chi Minh City was quoted by VIETNAM NEWS as saying.

Mr. Dayakar cited one example of this cooperation, the Mekong Delta Rice Research Institute at O Mon district, Can Tho province. This institute with the assistance of Indian experts, has created many new varieties, six of which, pest resistant and high yielding, have been grown with success in the region. Sixty staff from the institute together with other Vietnamese students, have received training in India.

The Vietnam Cotton Company in Nha Trang, for its part, has introduced several cotton varieties developed specifically, for India. These varieties now grow very well in Khanh Hoa, Ninh Thuan and Lam Dong provinces.

The Buffalo and Forage Research Centre set up with Indian assistance at Ben Cat district, Song Be province, north of Ho Chi Minh City, is emerging as a nucleus for a white revolution. Twenty persons at the centre have received training in India. India will also help build goat research centre in the same province.

During a recent visit by the India Minister of Agriculture, a memorandum of understanding was signed in Hanoi according to which Vietnam and India will further exchange germ plasm, conduct joint research in hybridisation, particularly in rice, maize and cotton, and exchange scientists and training.

Vietnam has also emerged as a market for a wide range of competitive Indian products and services. Vietnam's infrastructure and industry offer a number of opportunities for Indian companies who wish to make Ho Chi Minh City as the main gateway for Indochina as well. Sixteen Indian companies have set up operational presence in Ho Chi Minh City. Many more have expressed interest in opening offices in Ho Chi Minh and Hanoi.

Indian companies have shown interest in investing in real estate, in food processing, in the surger, cement and tobacco industries, in paper production, hotels, etc. Telecommunication Consultancy India Limited of New Delhi has been able to bag an award to supply rural automatic exchanges. Another Indian company recently signed a joint venture with General Rubber Corporation of Vietnam for 35,000 hectares of rubber plantations in Song Be and Gia Lai-kontum provinces. A steel factory, Vietnam Steel Corportation, is expected to go on steam this December in Bien Hoa, Dong Nai province.

Vietnam is also the single largest source for India's imports of cashew. India expects to import 45,000 tonnes of this product in 1993.

Preparations are underway to open a Vietnam branch of the State Bank of India.

Poland Signs Economic Cooperation Agreements

BK2811072292 Hanoi VNA in English 0635 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 28—Vietnam and Poland signed here on Nov. 26 two memorandums, one on cooperation in communications and transport, and the other on sea economic development.

Signatories were, on the Polish side, cabinet Vice Minister Zbigniew Sulatycki, who was heading a transport and economic delegation on a visit to Vietnam, and, on the Vietnamese side, Bui Van Suong and Vo Van Trac, deputy ministers of communications and transport, and maritime products, respectively.

These are initial agreements which aim to accelerating [as received] the cooperation in the fields of ship repairing and building, personnel training as well as seeking possibilities to cooperate in fishery between the two countries.

While in Vietnam from Nov. 24-27, the Polish delegation had working sessions with the Ministries of Communications and Transport, Maritime Products, the Department of Navigation, and toured a number of ship yards, fishing enterprises, etc. throughout Vietnam.

Taiwan Industry Fair Welcomes ROC Businessmen

OW2611090392 Taipei CNA in English 0741 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Nov. 25 (CNA)—Ranking trade and economics officials of Vietnam and the Republic of China [ROC] jointly cut the ribbon to open the Taiwan industry fair 1992 here Wednesday.

More than [word indistinct] ROC manufacturers were participating in the largest trade and industry fair since Taipei lifted its ban on direct trade with Vietnam four years ago.

The fair demonstrates not only the ROC's economic strength, but also its sincerity in cooperating with the Indo-Chinese country, said Huang Hsing-kuo, deputy secretary general of Taipei's China External Trade Development Council (CETRA).

Also officiating at the opening ceremony were Lin Shui-chi, director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Hanoi and Doan Ngoc Bong, secretary general of the Vietnamese National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The gala opening drew more than 200 entrepreneurs and wide media attention as observers said it was the biggest industry fair in the recent history of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly called Saigon.

The observers also took note of the fair's rich content and special features.

Addressing the occasion, Huang said trade and economic exchanges between Vietnam and Taiwan has grown rapidly since 1989, as can be seen from the swap of trade representative offices and the launching of direct flights between the two countries.

He added that participating companies, incluing those in the automobile, textile, machinery, electronics, food, and sea and maritime transportation industries, were keen to develop the Vietnamese market and to cooperate with Vietnam.

Vice Chairman Pham of the city's people's committee expressed the hope that the five [words indistinct]. Pham warmly welcomed Taiwan businessmen to invest in his country and to share their experience in developing small and medium businessnes.

In conjunction with the exhibition, CETRA and the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce and Industry co-sponsored a seminar for business communities of the two countries to know more about each other.

The chamber's [words indistinct] Ngyuen Van Yi, vice chairman of Vietnam's National Cooperation and Investment Committee; and Liu Ti, director of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Ho Chi Minh, made key-note speeches to introduce their respective country's investment rules and regulations.

Following the event, Taiwan participants will visit other Vietnamese cities to gain a better understanding of Vietnam's investment environment.

Taiwan has poured in US$784 million in various investment projects in Vietnam as of October this year, making it Vietnam's largest foreign capital supplier.

Bilateral trade has also surged from US$9.7 million in 1988 to US$230 million in 8991, and is expected to top US$300 million this year.

VNA Outlines Commercial Relations With UK

BK2911062692 Hanoi VNA in English 0600 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov. 29—In September 1992, Vietnam imported from Britain 388,699 GBP [Great Britain pounds] worth of goods 71,000 GBP less than the previous month, bringing the total value of imports from Britain in nine months to 5,085,000 GBP.

Meaanwhile, Vietnam earned in September 1992 nearly 2,273,000 GBP from export to Britain up by 273,000 GBP over the August figure bringing the value of exports to the UK in the first nine months of this year to 10,529,691 GBP.

Most important in terms of value among export items to Britain in September are Anthracite (1.121 million GBP) garments (787,118 GBP) wooden furniture (137,035 GBP), traveller's bags (79,704 GBP) art and handicraft articles, canned pineapple, shoe, sandals, cashew nut and black tea.

Tax Exemptions for Overseas Workers Issued

BK2611154592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 20 Nov 92

[Text] On 14 November the Prime Minister issued government decree no. 10-CP amending tax regulations imposed on goods being brought out of or into the country by Vietnamese workers and specialists on overseas assignment. The decree specified that as of 1 December 1992 all goods brought out from or into the country by Vietnamese workers and specialists on overseas assignment will be exempted from taxes in accordance with the regulations promulgated by the Customs Department.

The Ministry of Finance must consult with the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Welfare to adjust tariffs imposed on goods belonging to workers and specialists on overseas assignments as stipulated in article seven of the regulation attached to Council of Ministers decree no. 370-HBBT dated 9 November 1991. Measures must be taken to readjust allowances granted to officials on overseas missions to suit the current international conditions.

The decree stressed that organizations and individuals without permission or those with permission but who have failed to comply with stipulations of Council of Ministers decision no. 156-HBBT will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

This decree is effective as of 1 December 1992. Previous regulations contrary to this decree are rescinded.

Department Reviews Party Resolution Implementation

BK2711111592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] The party Central Committee Organization Department held a conference in Thai Binh Province from 20-23 November 1992 to review and exchange initial experiences obtained in the implementation of the party Central Committee's Third Plenum Resolution on party renovation and rectification. A large number of cadres in charge of organization of 24 northern provincial and city party committees from Quang Binh northward and of 11 party committees under various central departments attended the conference. Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, Political Bureau member and head of the party Central Organization Department, chaired the conference.

The conference unanimously reached the conclusion that the party Central Committee's Third Plenum Resolution has been actively deployed by various party committee echelons with a sense of reponsibility, yielding some initial results in improving members' perception and unifying viewpoints and objectives on party renovation and rectification. This has also been translated into the actual action plan of many party organizations. Almost all provincial and city party committees have mapped out action plans to implement the party Central Committee's Third Plenum Resolution, with concrete activities to be carried out from now until the end of 1993, and with general plans for the period until 1995.

However, during the course of implementation, many party committees have failed to deploy the resolution in an harmonious fashion. Grass-roots echelons have still been confused about a work method. Some party cadres and members, party committees, and party organization still lack confidence and determination.

Participants exchanged experience attained by their localities and units. They also discussed and contributed their views on many issues at the conference.

Speaking at the conference, Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, after hailing achievements obtained, gave his guiding instructions to help party committees promptly overcome difficulties in continuing to further accelerate the implementation of the third plenum resolution and to work out practical action plans at various echelons and sectors, down to grass-roots party chapters, in order to gradually renovate party organizations, making them truly clean and steadfast, thus worthy of a comprehensive leading nucleus of our country's current renovation undertaking.

AIDS Explosion Seen as 'Inevitable'

BK0112093692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 1 Dec 92

[By Andrew Sherry]

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 1 (AFP)—The popular Vietnamese belief that you can only get AIDS from foreigners will worsen the inevitable explosion of the disease in this Southeast Asian country, experts warned here Tuesday. Only 79 cases of HIV—the virus that causes aquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)—have been detected in Vietnam, Vietnamese Health Minister Nguyen Trong Nhan in a speech marking international AIDS day. But Nhan acknowledged that "these figures are certainly far from reality" because only 140,000 people have been tested.

While Vietnamese health officials would make no estimate of the actual figure, they said they feared that an explosion of the fatal disease was inevitable.

"All the necessary factors for an explosion are present," said Le Dien Hong, vice chairman of the national AIDS committee. "We have increasing contact with the exterior, especially along the Cambodian border, while inside the plague of prostitution and drug abuse is increasing uncontrollably," he said.

All but eight of the 79 people found to have HIV are foreigners, principally Thai fishermen, while the Vietnamese carriers included prostitutes who had returned from Cambodia, he said. Furthermore, Vietnam does not have the means to screen blood transfusions for the virus, he said.

Foreign experts here praised Vietnam for waking up to the threat of AIDS ahead of an epidemic, but warned that viewing the disease as a foreign phenomenon was dangerous.

"Once the virus is here, it doesn't matter if it came from the CIA (the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency), the Soviet Union or Vietnam itself," said World Health Organization representative Bernard Moniere. "The worm is in the apple."

Moniere pointed to a recent anti-AIDS film clip portraying a young Vietnamese woman as contracting the virus from an overseas Vietnamese man who returned to his homeland via Bangkok.

"That teaches people to blame their neighbor," he said. "People think that if they have sex with a (local) Vietnamese it's safe." "That's a major diversion. By the time people realize that they're also at risk, it's too late."

In Thailand, AIDS spread rapidly from high-risk groups such as prostitutes to the general population. This is also certain to happen in Vietnam, said Barbara Franklin of the aid organization CARE International. She said the preliminary results of a survey of Vietnamese prostitutes carried out as part of CARE's anti-AIDS program found that half of them were married, and continued to have sex with their husbands. Only 12 percent used condoms with their customers.

A stunning 90 percent said they did not think they were at risk of catching AIDS, explaining in most cases that they "only have sex with Vietnamese," she said. "I think the biggest barrier to AIDS prevention in Vietnam is the idea that Vietnamese people don't have AIDS."

While the government has begun educating secondary school students about the risk of AIDS, many of the measures being considered by the national AIDS council are clearly targetted at foreigners.

"We think the lifestyle from abroad is strongly influencing our young people," Hong said.

He said the government would try to target testing on Vietnamese returning from Cambodia—where the presence of some 17,000 United Nations troops has fueled the booming sex trade—as well as foreign workers and fishermen.

The council has also asked the government to make it more difficult for "shoestring travellers" to enter Vietnam, he said. "We think that's one of the ways AIDS comes in—because they are uncontrollable."

In reality, however, Asian and Western businessmen who frequent the red-light districts of Bangkok or Manila are more likely to carry the AIDS virus to Vietnam than 20-year-old foreign backpackers, foreign experts said.

"Sex tours" to Ho Chi Minh City and the beach resort of Vung Tao have become increasingly popular over the last year despite official crackdowns, with the alleged absence of AIDS in Vietnam a major selling point.

Police sources say Ho Chi Minh City now has close to 50,000 prostitutes, about 10,000 more than in 1975 when the city was known as Saigon.

VNA Reports Hanoi Observance of World AIDS Day

BK0112162492 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 1 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 1—A meeting was held here this morning by the National Anti-AIDS Committee in response to World AIDS Day-1992.

Present at the meeting were Minister of Public Health Nguyen Trong Nhan; Minister of Labour, War Invalids, and Social Affairs Tran Dinh Hoan; Deputy Minister of the Interior Pham Tam Long; Deputy Minister of Education and Training Luong Ngoc Toan and representatives of various public offices, mass organizations, schools, etc.

Representatives of the UNDP [UN Development Program] and WHO were also present at the function.

By the end of November 1992, Vietnam had found 79 persons (including 8 Vietnamese) HIV seropositive from 140,000 blood sample tests.

International Malaria Seminar Held

BK0212155092 Hanoi VNA in English 1505 GMT 2 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 2—During these ten years, malaria, once thought to be under control, is on the rise in the world, chiefly in regions of Africa, South America and Asia. In Vietnam, the disease is growing on a national scale infecting an estimated 1 million people annually. These facts were announced at a two-day international seminar on malaria held recently in Ho Chi Minh City by the municipal health service and the Union of French-Speaking Universities (UREF). Partipating in the seminar were many professors and physicians working in Ho Chi Minh City and from 10 foreign countries and representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Phnom Penh and Hanoi. Also present were Professor Marc Gentilini, member of the French National Academy of Medicine, and collaborators of UREF anti-malaria networks.

A report by the Vietnamese Health Ministry said that in 1990 malaria was among the 10 diseases that claimed the highest fatality rate in Vietnam. At present 40 percent of the population live in malaria-prone regions. This is a tough challenge to the primary health care programme in the country, the report said.

The seminar also discussed at length reports by the Belgium Tropical Medicine Institute, the Malaria Institute of Vientiane, Laos, and the Tropical Diseases Institute and the Malaria Institute of Ho Chi Minh City. The participants also compared notes on how best to use medicines to completely control the disease in the years ahead.

Do Muoi Interviewed on National Front Anniversary

BK2711014192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 18 Nov 92

["Excerpts" from an interview with Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi "on the occassion of the 62d anniversary of the Vietnam National Unified Front" by an unidentified correspondent of the weekly DAI DOAN KET; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Replying to a question on his thoughts about this memorable anniversary and on the valuable tradition of all-people great solidarity painstakingly built by President Ho Chi Minh, Comade Do Muoi said:

At the first session of the Ninth National Assembly, I emphasized the need to strengthen the all-people unity bloc as this is our people's valuable tradition painstakingly built by Uncle Ho. The uncle reminded our party and people of the motto: Unity, Unity, Great Unity; Sucess, Success, Great Success.

After recalling various forms of unity promoted to gather the bulk of all-people strength and to affirm the great contributions made by people of various strata as well as by overseas Vietnamese nationals since the birth of the National Unified Front to the struggle for national liberation and unification, Comrade Do Muoi stressed:

After the country was unified, Vietnamese people of various strata have been gathered into the Vietnam Fatherland Front and this front has become a prop for our party and state in the latter's efforts to mobilize the entire people to build and defend the fatherland.

The comrade pointed out: Now there is a growing need for developing the strength generated by all-people unity because our country is once again facing unprecedented challenges. Eternally doing away with poverty and backwardness and building a steadfast, prosperous, beautiful, and civilized country is an important, glorious yet very heavy task full of difficulties and complexities. By developing our heroic and indomitable tradition and our great unity-generated strength, our people will certainly be able to overcome all difficulties in coping with challenges, seizing all opportunities, successfully carrying out the renovation undertaking, carrying out economic and cultural development, making the people prosperous and the country powerful, and firmly maintaining our national independence and sovereignty.

The Vietnam Fatherland Front, our largest sociopolitical organ, has the honor of assuming the role of gathering all organizations, individuals, and talents, including overseas compatriots, to implement this lofty goal.

Regarding a request to further clarify a call by the general secretary at the first session of the Ninth National Assembly to do away with unfavorable feelings and personal hatred and to look toward the future, Comrade Do Muoi said:

It was due to our national independence and freedom and our people's prosperity and happiness that our nation had gone through a struggle that lasted more than 30 years, including 20 years of national partition, and that left many serious consequences for us to overcome until now. Although our country has regained independence and unification, the wounds of war have not been healed in the hearts of our people. The unfavorable feelings left by the past in the hearts of a segment of our compatriots are not good for the cause of all-people great unity. We advocate achieving national unity and national reconciliation. The Vietnamese people, irrespective of their social strata, ethic group, and religion, whether they live in the country or abroad, regardless of their past political background and of whatever position they might have held in the old regime, if they regard as their goal the struggle for the fatherland's independence and freedom of the compatriots's happiness, or if they are willing to devote their energy and talents to helping the country, will have a foothold in the all-people great unity bloc and will be welcomed by the state and the people.

To a question of whether the general secretary would like to say anything to overseas Vietnamese in general and especially to those overseas Vietnamese who still have unfavorable feelings toward the country, Comrade Do Muoi said:

Overseas Vietnamese are an inseparable component of the Vietnamese community. Although a number of them have been naturalized, they continue to attach themselves closely to the fatherland, the place where they were born. More and more overseas Vietnamese have attained good achievements. Some have excelled in various domains such as modern science and technology, literature, arts, and business management. At various schools in their resident countries, many children of overseas Vietnamese nationals and many students of Vietnamese orign have been rated outstanding. This is a source of pride for our nation because Vietnamese people, whenever they live, have always glorified themselves as children of the Lac Hong race.

The comrade general secretary expressed his joy over the fact that more and more overseas Vietnamese are returning to visit their homeland. On returning home, they have seen with their own eyes the many changes for the better in the direction of the people becoming more prosperous and the country becoming more powerful. They have also witnessed many misdeeds which are causing pain and worry. This will make them further realize their duty toward the beloved fatherland as Vietnamese citizens.

The comrade general secretary expressed hope that in the coming Lunar New Year Festival, overseas Vietnamese will return to visit their homeland in larger numbers than in previous years and that the returning Vietnamese will find suitable ways to help build a happier and more modern country as expected by the entire people and Uncle Ho.

Commentary Views Decline in Illegal Departures

BK3011150592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] In its Tuesday [24 November] broadcast, the Voice of America said that at present, the exodus of illegal departures of Vietnamese has decreased. It said that in the first nine months of this year, only nine Vietnamese illegally left for Hong Kong. The number of boat people to other Southeast Asian countries is also very small. What is the truth? Here is our radio opinion.

It is true that since early this year, the number of Vietnamese who illegally left the country has basically stopped. This is of great significance because three years ago, some 70,000 Vietnamese left Vietnam. The fact is that in recent years, this situation has destabilized socio-economic development in Vietnam. It has also caused great trouble to the first asylum countries.

To solve this problem, the Vietnamese Government has taken active measures to stop the exodus of illegal departures. Worthy of note is that Vietnam has allowed legal departures, including the Orderly Departure Program [ODP], and the Program of Amerasian Children and also a program allowing those who finish their terms in education camps to leave for the United States. Besides, Vietnam also permits the program of voluntary repatriates. Vietnam is ready to welcome them home without prejudice or discrimination. Thanks to those positive and humanitarian measures, the exodus of illegal departures has come to a stop and is no longer a problem for Vietnam and countries concerned.

However, as reported by the Voice of America, the improvement of the living conditions and economic development in Vietnam are important factors ending the exodus of illegal departures. However, this problem is not completely solved. The big question raised for Vietnam now is the reintegration of returnees, that is, to help them settle down in their country with empty hands. More than 50 percent of returnees are in working age and most of them are unskillful and in school age. The Vietnamese Government has created favorable conditions for them to reintegrate into the community but Vietnam also wishes that the European Community and international organizations will continue their assistance and aid to repatriates in order to help them find jobs or attend job training courses to stabilize their lives.

90 Percent of 1992 Taxes Collected Nationwide

BK0312031692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] According to the Revenue Service General Department, Ministry of Finance, by 20 November the revenue services throughout the country had collected 12,518 billion dong, achieving 90 percent of the 1992 plan norms. Nine localities have already completed or exceeded their yearly tax collection targets. They are Yen Bai, Cong Tum, Hanoi, Lao Cai, Tay Ninh, Quang Ninh, Ha Giang, Lang Son, and Hai Hung.

Agricultural Production Nationwide Updated

BK0312033892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, by 25 November 1992 peasants throughout the country had completed the 10th-month rice harvest on more than 1.68 million hectares of land, or 62.46 percent of the transplanted area.

In addition to the 10th-month rice harvest, peasants in the southern provinces have completed winter-spring rice transplanting on more than 392,000 hectares of land, or 31 percent of the land targeted for transplanting. Apart from rice transplanting, peasants have also completed subsidiary food crop cultivation on more than

403,000 hectares of land, or more than 35 percent of the set target and at a faster pace compared to the same period last year.

At present, harmful insects and diseases are damaging rice and other crops in many areas throughout the country. The localities are actively trying to protect rice and subsidiary food crops from harmful insects and diseases.

Leaders Attend Congress for Blind

BK3011145992 Hanoi VNA in English 1301 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA November 30—The 4th congress of the Association of the Blind closed here yesterday after four days'work.

Present at the opening were Vu Oanh, politburo member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Phan Van Khai, politburo member and Vice Premier Pham Van Kiet, vice chairman and secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and officials of various branches and mass organizations.

The Association of the Blind now has 11,000 members and branches in 18 provinces in recent years, the association has launched many movements such as 'Week of Caring for the Blind' (1990), 'Year of Eradication of Illiteracy for the Blind' (1991) and 'Year of Employment for the Blind' (1992).

Its branches have organized regular cultural, art and club activities for the blinc. The association has provided the blind with three kinds of reading materials: braille, talking books and common newspapers.

It has opened 250 literacy classes for 4,000 blind persons and also secondary education and foreign language courses. The blind in Vietnam have set up 60 small industrial and handicraft establishments to provide jobs for 1,000 blind persons who are earning almost as much as an average worker. Besides, many job training centres have been opened for the blind and interest-free of low-interest loans are granted them to start family-based businesses.

The Vietnam Association of the Blind has become a member of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind and the Federation of the Blind for East Asia and the Pacific.

Addressing the congress, Mr. Vu Oanh laid emphasis on the responsibility of the party, state and mass organisations to increase care for the blind.

Vice Premier Phan Van Khai, for his part, called attention to the need of expanding job-generating activities for the benefit of the blind considering it the main measure to help reintegrate them into community life.

The congress elected a 20-member new executive committee with Mr. Dinh Thu Yen reelected as chairman and Mr. Le Hong Thuy reelected as vice chairman and secreary.

Vu Oanh Attends Mass Mobilization Conference

BK2911163492 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] On 24 November, the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department held a national conference to review results of implementing the sixth party Central Committee eighth plenum's resolution on mass mobilization work and the seventh party Central Committee third plenum's resolution on the program of action to accelerate the mass mobilization task.

Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee attended the conference. Also attending the conference were ministers, deputy ministers, leaders of sectors and branches of the party Central Commitee, deputy secretaries and members of provincial party committees responsible for mass mobilization work, and chiefs of mass mobilization committees of 53 provinces and municipalities throughout the country.

After hearing the opening speech delivered by Comrade Phan Minh Tanh, member of the CPV Central Committee and chief of the party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department, Comrade Nguyen Tien Phong, deputy chief of the department, read a report on the results of implementing the sixth party Central Committee eighth plenum's resolution and plans for mass mobilization work during the 1993-95 period. The report appraised results of the mass mobilization task and analyzed changes in our social structure at present as well as the daily life of our people's strata. The report also analyzed the situation of the mass mobilization work at present, new efforts to improve the party leadership over the mass mobilization task, and changes in the organization and activities of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and other mass organizations and societies.

The 1993-95 mass mobilization work calls for further efforts to firmly grasp and satisfactorily implement the sixth party Central Committee eighth plenum's resolution, especially at various party echelons, sectors, and grass-roots units. Efforts must be made to integrate the combined strengths of our political system and promote mass revolutionary movement to carry out the 1993-95 socioeconomic, security, and national defense tasks. The conference will be closed on 28 November.

Australia

Somalian Troop Deployment Increase Not Planned

BK0312062692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Text] The Australian Government says it is not planning to increase the number of troops to be sent for duty in Somalia with the United Nations force.

Defense Minister Robert Ray announced in October that a 30-member group, which will coordinate the movement of UN stores and personnel, will be sent to the war-torn country. A spokesman for the minister's office says that the role of the Australian group would not change since there will still be a need for logistic specialists in Somalia.

The Australian detachment will be deployed when the full UN force moves into Somalia. Meanwhile, there have been more offers of military support for a major UN intervention in Belgium, France, and Italy.

Evans: Troops 'On Standby'

BK0412041292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The United Nations Security Council has approved a massive American-led military intervention to protect the distribution of humanitarian aid in famine-striken Somalia. [passage omitted]

The Australian Government has also welcomed the Security Council vote. A spokesman for Foreign Ministry, Gareth Evans, says it is hoped that presence of UN troops will quickly establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief in Somalia.

He said Australian troops are on standby to travel to Somalia to serve as a logistics unit.

Opposition Urges More Troops

BK0412070292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0554 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Canberra, Dec 4 (AFP)—Australia's conservative opposition on Friday urged the government to boost the country's contribution of 30 troops on the U.N. peacekeeping mission in famine-ravaged Somalia.

Opposition defence spokesman Alexander Downer said the 30 troops Australia had promised was not enough in view of the appalling situation in Somalia.

The U.N. Security Council approved Friday a full-scale military operation led by the United States and involving some 28,000 troops to restore order and end the hijacking of relief supplies by gangs.

This follows the failure of a smaller U.N. force of about 500 Pakistani troops and 50 unarmed observers to safeguard aid distribution in the face of attacks by the armed gangs.

"The government should now be exploring all possible options for sending a large Australian contingent to the relief effort," Downer said in a statement.

However, a spokesman for Defence Minister Robert Ray said the government had no plans to send more troops.

Australia now has troops taking part in half a dozen U.N. operations from the Middle East to Cambodia, where the largest contingent, 500 communications specialists, are stationed.

New Zealand

Government Supports UN Military Operation in Somalia

BK0412084092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 4 Dec 92

[Text] Wellington, Dec 4 (AFP)—New Zealand was willing to send military personnel to help with peacekeeping in Somalia, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Friday.

In a statement he backed the vote by the United Nations Security Council to support a United States-dominated military operation in the famine hit country.

New Zealand will next year take up a two-year seat on the Security Council and McKinnon said it was known here that the United Nations would be "moving beyond the traditional peacekeeping role to the more difficult and dangerous task of peacemaking or peacebuilding."

He said New Zealand had in October offered 28 New Zealand Army personnel for UNOSOM (U.N. Operation, Somalia).

"We are prepared to stand and be counted internationally."

McKinnon said the advance party of six was on the Kenyan border ready to participate.

"They will be serving in a logistics support role for the humanitarian relief effort, and will continue that role once the newly enhanced force has established secure conditions," McKinnon said.